



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1984

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'STRONG INHERENT DEMAND' SEEN FOR ACCOMMODATION
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THE INCREASED TAKE-UP OF ACCOMMODATION IN ALL SECTORS DURING 1983 INDICATED STRONG INHERENT DEMAND, THE COMMISSIONER FOR RATING AND VALUATION, MR R.A. FRY, SAID TODAY.

CONFIRMING PRELIMINARY FINDINGS ANNOUNCED EARLIER THIS YEAR, HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE MORE REALISTIC ATTITUDES OF DEVELOPERS, AS REFLECTED IN THEIR MARKETING POLICIES AND THE REVISED FORECASTS OF SUPPLY IN 1984, WOULD LEAD TO A FURTHER DECREASE IN VACANCIES IN MOST SECTORS AND PROMOTE A MORE BALANCED MARKET SITUATION.

MR FRY WAS SPEAKING ON THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT'S 1984 PROPERTY REVIEW, WHICH IS AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT \$65 A COPY.

THE REVIEW COVERS THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1983 AND PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF SUPPLY, VACANCIES, TAKE-UP, RENTAL AND PURCHASE PRICE MOVEMENTS IN THE MAJOR SECTORS OF THE PROPERTY MARKET.

MR FRY SAID THAT THE FURTHER SOFTENING OF RENTALS AND PRICES IN ALL SECTORS OVER THE YEAR HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE INCREASED TAKE-UP.

+BY THE END OF THE YEAR A MORE STABLE POSITION WAS EMERGING FOR SMALL DOMESTIC UNITS AND WELL-SITUATED FACTORY UNITS WHILE THE GENERALLY IMPROVED OUTLOOK SEEMED LIKELY TO MODERATE FALLS ELSEWHERE,+ HE SAID.

DOMESTIC (ALL PREMISES)

	(NO. OF UNITS)			
	<u>SUPPLY</u>	<u>TAKE-UP</u>	<u>VACANCY</u>	<u>VACANCY AS A % OF STOCK</u>
1982	23 900	19 600	31 700	6.0
1983	23 900	27 800	25 500	4.7
1984	20 200			

+WHILE THE FORECAST SUPPLY FOR 1984 HAD BEEN REVISED DOWNWARD TO SOME 20 000 UNITS, A RECORD SUPPLY OF JUST OVER 35 000 UNITS WAS ANTICIPATED IN 1985.

+TAKE-UP IN 1983 AT NEARLY 28 000 UNITS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY AND VACANCIES FELL TO 4.7 PER CENT OF STOCK COMPARED WITH SIX PER CENT A YEAR EARLIER.

/+THE RENTAL

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+THE RENTAL INDEX SHOWS A FALL OF 15 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR. GENERALLY, HOWEVER, SMALLER UNITS SHOWED A DEGREE OF STABILITY DURING THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR. THE PRICE INDEX FELL A FURTHER 21 PER CENT.

DOMESTIC (LARGER UNITS OF 100 M² AND ABOVE)

	(NO. OF UNITS)			VACANCY AS A % OF STOCK
	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	
1982	2 500	1 200	3 800	9.1
1983	2 600	1 800	4 400	9.9
1984	2 100			

+DESPITE A RECORD TAKE-UP IN 1983 OF SOME 1 800 UNITS, THE HIGH LEVEL OF SUPPLY IN THE YEAR RESULTED IN AN INCREASE IN VACANCIES TO ALMOST 10 PER CENT OF STOCK.

+SUPPLY IN 1984 AND 1985 IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN HIGH WITH THE REVISED FORECASTS INDICATING IN EXCESS OF 2 000 UNITS IN EACH YEAR.

+THE RENTAL INDEXES FOR, RESPECTIVELY, D AND E UNITS FELL BY 20 PER CENT AND 15 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR WHILE THE COMBINED PRICE INDEX SHOWED A FALL OF 28 PER CENT.

COMMERCIAL

	('000 M ²)			VACANCY AS A % OF STOCK
	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	
1982	368	198	545	10.7
1983	270	243	541	10.1
1984	175			

+AS IN MORE RECENT YEARS, MUCH OF THE SUPPLY IN 1983 WAS OF ARCADED SHOP DEVELOPMENT. SUPPLY IN 1984 IS NOW LIKELY TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY DOWN ON THE PREVIOUS FORECAST.

+A MUCH IMPROVED TAKE-UP IN 1983 RESULTED IN A SLIGHT DROP IN VACANCIES COMPARED WITH THE POSITION A YEAR EARLIER. IN THIS RESPECT, IT IS OF NOTE THAT THE GREATER PROPORTION OF VACANCIES IS NOW WITHIN OLDER BUILDINGS.

/+THE SHOP

+THE SHOP RENTAL INDEX FELL BY 12 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR AND THE PRICE INDEX BY 15 PER CENT.

OFFICES

	('000 M ²)			
	<u>SUPPLY</u>	<u>TAKE-UP</u>	<u>VACANCY</u>	<u>VACANCY AS A % OF STOCK</u>
1982	546	253	573	17.6
1983	591	371	793	20.6
1984	233			

+SUPPLY IN 1983 SET A NEW RECORD AND, ALTHOUGH TAKE-UP OVER THE YEAR WAS ALSO THE HIGHEST EVER RECORDED, VACANCIES INCREASED TO NEARLY 800 000 M² OR THE EQUIVALENT OF 20 PER CENT OF THE YEAR END STOCK.

+SUPPLY IN 1984 IS NOW PUT AT 233 000 M² WITH A FURTHER 447 000 M² FORECAST FOR 1985. IN RESPECT OF THE LATTER, JUST OVER HALF IS EXPECTED TO BE GRADE A ACCOMMODATION OF WHICH OVER 95 PER CENT WILL BE ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

+THE RENTAL INDEX FELL BY 16 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR. THE PRICE INDEX SHOWED A CONSIDERABLE FALL OF ABOUT 43 PER CENT WHICH, ALTHOUGH CORRECT IN SO FAR AS IT ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE FEW RECORDED TRANSACTIONS TABULATED, SHOULD PROBABLY BE PARTLY RELATED BACK TO 1982 WHEN A FALL OF ONLY TWO PER CENT WAS RECORDED.

FLATTED FACTORIES

	('000 M ²)			
	<u>SUPPLY</u>	<u>TAKE-UP</u>	<u>VACANCY</u>	<u>VACANCY AS A % OF STOCK</u>
1982	1 041	571	1 219	10.5
1983	621	727	1 089	8.9
1984	533			

+SUPPLY IN 1983 WAS WELL BELOW THAT OF RECENT YEARS AND THE FORECASTS FOR 1984 AND 1985 SUGGEST A SUBSTANTIAL RESCHEDULING OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

+AS A RESULT OF INCREASED TAKE-UP AND SMALLER SUPPLY, VACANCIES FELL TO JUST UNDER NINE PER CENT OF TOTAL STOCK COMPARED WITH 10.5 PER CENT A YEAR EARLIER.

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+THE RENTAL INDEX FOR THE URBAN AREA FELL BY 21 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR AND THE PRICE INDEX BY 15 PER CENT.

+THE PERFORMANCE OF CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE PROPERTY MARKET IN 1983 BODES WELL FOR THE FUTURE AND SUGGESTS THAT A REVIVAL COULD BE IN SIGHT. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO FOR SMALLER DOMESTIC UNITS, WHERE CONTINUED LOW INTEREST RATES AND THE REALISTIC APPROACH OF DEVELOPERS HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT FACTORS.+

MR FRY SAID THAT IN CONTRAST, THE IMMEDIATE OUTLOOK FOR LARGER UNITS REMAINED LESS BRIGHT DESPITE THE REDUCED FORECASTS FOR 1984 AND 1985. A CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL OF TAKE-UP AND ANY SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC SHIFTS COULD, HOWEVER, QUICKLY CHANGE THE BALANCE OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND SINCE THE NUMBER OF UNITS INVOLVED WAS COMPARATIVELY SMALL.

THE INCREASE IN TAKE-UP OF BOTH COMMERCIAL AND FLATTED FACTORY ACCOMMODATION WAS ENCOURAGING, WITH LOWER RENTALS AND PRICES STIMULATING DEMAND.

+THERE REMAIN, HOWEVER, WEAKNESSES IN BOTH SECTORS, NOTABLY THE LESS WELL-MANAGED ARCADED SHOP DEVELOPMENTS AND OLDER POORLY SERVICED FLATTED FACTORIES, WHICH SEEM LIKELY TO DIMINISH EARLY RECOVERY PROSPECTS.

+THE HIGH LEVEL OF VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE SECTOR AND THE FORECAST SUPPLY FOR 1984 AND 1985 ALSO SEEMS LIKELY TO PRECLUDE ANY EARLY UPTURN. A PROBLEM AREA HERE IS THE INCREASING VACANCY POSITION IN LESS WELL-MANAGED BUILDINGS IN THE OLDER COMMERCIAL CENTRES AND BUILDINGS OUTSIDE THE ESTABLISHED COMMERCIAL CENTRES.

+WITH A MORE STABLE RENTAL MARKET AND THE FURTHER SOFTENING OF PRICES OVER THE YEAR, GENERALLY, PROPERTY YIELDS ARE NOW FAIRLY ATTRACTIVE AS AGAINST OTHER FORMS OF LOCAL INVESTMENT,+ HE SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FURTHER FACTUAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM MR STEPHEN WILCOX ON 5-7957614 OR MR YEUNG CHE-KEUNG ON 5-7957629.

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GOVERNOR LEAVES FOR PEKING
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, LEFT FOR PEKING THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TO TAKE PART IN THE 13TH ROUND OF THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

HE WAS SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ROGER LOBO, AND THE VICE-CHIEF EDITOR OF THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY (HONG KONG BRANCH), MR TAN GAN.

ACCOMPANYING THE GOVERNOR WERE THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR ROBIN MCLAREN, AND THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF INTERPRETER, MR Y.P. CHENG.

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HK CALLS FOR FREE TRADE AT ADB MEETING
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THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR D.W.A. BLYE, TODAY URGED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO HONOUR THEIR +OFTEN REPEATED+ COMMITMENTS TO FREE TRADE TO ENABLE DEVELOPING MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM THE CURRENT RECOVERY IN THE WORLD ECONOMY.

MAKING THE PLEA AT THE 17TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BANK'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS IN AMSTERDAM, HE POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE THE RECOVERY, THERE WERE ALSO DANGEROUS SIGNS OF A RESURGENCE OF TRADE PROTECTIONIST MEASURES.

+THIS IS DESPITE A GENERAL RECOGNITION, BY COUNTRIES IMPOSING OR CONSIDERING IMPOSING SUCH MEASURES, THAT FREE TRADE IS NECESSARY FOR SECURING BOTH THE FINANCIAL STRUCTURE FOR, AND A SUSTAINED RECOVERY IN, THE WORLD ECONOMY, AND DESPITE DECLARATIONS AT HIGH LEVEL GATHERINGS THAT HAVE REAFFIRMED COMMITMENTS TO HALT AND REVERSE PROTECTIONISM,+ HE SAID.

THE TRADE POLICIES OF SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES DID NOT MATCH THESE COMMITMENTS, MR BLYE SAID. RESTRICTIONS WERE MANY AND THERE WAS A WORRYING TENDENCY FOR RESTRICTIONS ONCE CONFINED TO THOSE SECTORS OF TRADE TRADITIONALLY +PROTECTED+ TO SPREAD TO OTHER SECTORS.

/OVER THE

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OVER THE YEARS, THE NET OF RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON IMPORTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD BEEN CAST PROGRESSIVELY WIDER, AND THE MEASURES HAD TENDED TO BECOME MORE STRINGENT AND INCREASINGLY DISCRIMINATORY, HE ADDED.

SPEAKING ON THE FINANCIAL MARKETS IN HONG KONG, MR BLYE SAID CONFIDENCE HAD RETURNED SINCE THE GOVERNMENT LINKED THE HONG KONG DOLLAR TO THE U.S. DOLLAR AT A FIXED EXCHANGE RATE LAST OCTOBER. THIS WAS EVIDENCED BY THE STABILITY OF THE HK DOLLAR SINCE LAST OCTOBER, A TWO-AND-A-HALF TIMES OVER-SUBSCRIPTION IN THE RECENT GOVERNMENT BOND ISSUE AND A 24 PER CENT INCREASE IN HK DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH THE MONETARY SECTOR IN THE FOUR MONTHS FROM THE END OF LAST OCTOBER TO THE END OF FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

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CUSTOMS ORGANISATION'S PLACE IN A FREE PORT
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FOR ALL THE FREEDOM HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE ENJOYS UNDER ITS +FREE PORT STATUS+, THE TERRITORY NEEDS A LARGE AND EFFICIENT CUSTOMS ORGANISATION, THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR DOUGLAS JORDAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

ADDRESSING THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED SHIPBROKERS, MR JORDAN POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S UNIQUE +FREE PORT STATUS+ IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT AND IMPORTANT TO ITS TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

+WE DO NOT HAVE A CONVENTIONAL TARIFF WITH DUTIES CHARGEABLE RIGHT ACROSS THE BOARD. BUT WE DO CHARGE DUTY ON FOUR COMMODITIES, THREE OF WHICH ARE IMPORTANT AS SOURCES OF REVENUE, NAMELY LIQUOR IN ALL ITS VARIATIONS, TOBACCO AND ROAD VEHICLE FUELS.

+THE FOURTH DUTIABLE COMMODITY IS METHYL ALCOHOL WHICH IS MADE DUTIABLE SOLELY TO CONTROL IT AND AVOID ITS ABUSE WITH ASSOCIATED HEALTH HAZARDS IN THE ADULTERATION OF OTHERWISE PERFECTLY SAFE LIQUOR.

+ANOTHER FEATURE - PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT - OF HONG KONG'S 'FREE PORT STATUS' IS THE ABSENCE OF ALL THE RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO MOVEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS WHICH ARE A CONCOMITANT OF CONVENTIONAL CUSTOMS CONTROL.

+RESTRICTIONS IN MOVEMENT OF GOODS INEVITABLY LEAD TO A PROFUSION OF OFFICIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION AND AGAIN HAPPILY FOR OUR IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS SUCH REQUIREMENTS ARE KEPT TO A MINIMUM HERE IN HONG KONG,+ MR JORDAN SAID.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DUTIABLE COMMODITIES TO HONG KONG'S OVERALL REVENUE HAS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN RECENT YEARS.

/THE HEAVY

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THE HEAVY INCREASES IN LIQUOR AND TOBACCO DUTIES IMPOSED BY THE 1983 BUDGET AND THE INTRODUCTION OF AD VALOREM LIQUOR DUTIES THIS YEAR HAD ALTERED THE ROLE OF CUSTOMS IN THIS FIELD, HE POINTED OUT.

+NOT ONLY HAS OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE OVERALL REVENUE BEEN INCREASED TO APPROXIMATELY 15 PER CENT OF ITS TOTAL BUT CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT HAVE ASSUMED A NEW IMPORTANCE,+ HE ADDED.

BEFORE THE 1982 DUTY INCREASES, EVASION OF DUTY HAD BEEN RARE, WHILE THE INCREASES HAD LED TO GREATER INDUCEMENT TO SMUGGLE OR EVADE CONTROLS, HE SAID.

+BUT I AM HAPPY TO RECORD THAT OUR COUNTER-MEASURES HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN MEETING THE PROBLEM,+ MR JORDAN ADDED.

APART FROM ITS REVENUE RESPONSIBILITIES, THE HONG KONG CUSTOMS HAS WIDE FUNCTIONS UNDER SOME 20 ORDINANCES.

MOST OF THEM ARE TO DO WITH PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON SPECIFIC IMPORTS AND EXPORTS WHICH HONG KONG MAINTAINS EITHER FOR ITS OWN BENEFIT TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ITS POPULATION OR IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS WITH ITS TRADING PARTNERS.

+FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF LAW-ABIDING DECENT HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN WE PERFORM OUR WORK IN THIS CONNECTION IN SUCH A WAY AS TO FACILITATE RATHER THAN HINDER HONG KONG'S TRADE. BASICALLY THE RESTRICTIONS ARE NOT OF HONG KONG'S MAKING.

+IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HONG KONG CUSTOMS TO ENSURE THEY ARE APPLIED EFFECTIVELY BUT THAT THE INCIDENCE OF THESE UNAVOIDABLE CONTROLS ENSURES COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS RATHER THAN UNNECESSARY INTERFERENCE WITH TRADE,+ MR JORDAN CONCLUDED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

VEHICLE SMOKE CONTROL DRIVE
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A MONTH-LONG VEHICLE SMOKE CONTROL CAMPAIGN ORGANISED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE, WILL BE LAUNCHED ON MAY 1 (TUESDAY).

DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD, SPOT CHECKS OF VEHICLES EMITTING EXCESSIVE SMOKE WILL BE STEPPED UP BY THE DEPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL +SMOKEMETER+ TEAMS.

APART FROM BEING SERVED WITH FIXED PENALTY TICKETS, VEHICLE OWNERS MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO SEND THEIR VEHICLES FOR CHECKS.

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LEGISLATION SEEKING TO RAISE THE AMOUNT OF THE FIXED PENALTY FOR THIS OFFENCE IS ALSO WELL IN PROGRESS.

DETAILS OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN A PRESS VISIT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ON MONDAY, APRIL 30.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD GATHER AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE ELEVENTH FLOOR, EMPIRE CENTRE, 68 MODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST BY 2.15 PM.

A BRIEFING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (AIR), MR MICHAEL CHAN WHO WILL ALSO SPEAK ABOUT VEHICLE SMOKE NUISANCE AND HAZARDS.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL ALSO BE TAKEN ON A VISIT TO THE VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE IN KOWLOON BAY AND A SMOKEMETER TEAM AT WORK NEARBY AFTER THE BRIEFING.

TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED DURING THE TOUR.

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TWO DISTRICT BOARDS TO MEET TOMORROW

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THE USE OF A VACANT SITE BOUNDED BY HAMILTON STREET AND DUNDAS STREET WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER ALLOCATING THE 2 400-SQUARE-METRE SITE TO THE YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI RECREATION AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR USE AS A TENNIS COURT.

A PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE THE SITTING-OUT AREA AT MARKET STREET AND TO BUILD A LANDSCAPED AREA AT THE JUNCTION OF WATERLOO ROAD AND WYLIE ROAD WILL BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION. THE TWO PROJECTS ARE ESTIMATED TO COST \$90 000 AND \$50 000 RESPECTIVELY.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE REVISED PLANNING STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES, THE WORK PLAN OF ICAC'S CHAK FUNG OFFICE, A LITTER HOT LINE AND THE BOARD'S BUDGET FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

IN THE MORNING, TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE PROVISION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES IN THE DISTRICT AT THEIR MEETING.

THEY WILL ALSO COMMENT ON A REPORT, COMPILED BY THE BOARD'S WORKING GROUP, ON THE EDUCATION PROBLEMS OF FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN IN TUEN MUN.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED POLLING STATIONS IN THE DISTRICT FOR NEXT YEAR'S BOARD ELECTION, THE NAMING OF LOCAL PLACES AND THE ALLOCATION OF DB FUNDS.

/SOME SEATS

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SOME SEATS WILL BE RESERVED FOR THE PUBLIC ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS, AND ANYONE WISHING TO ATTEND SHOULD TELEPHONE THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT AT 0-843801.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER:

(A) THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE BOARD'S SECRETARIAT ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF FOOK YICK COMMERCIAL BUILDING IN SAN ON CIRCUIT; AND

(B) THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 3 PM THE SAME DAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF HOP FAT COMMERCIAL CENTRE AT 490-492 NATHAN ROAD.

A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE, AM 5797, WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 8.50 AM FOR TUEN MUN.

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MORE STUDY ROOMS FOR KWUN TONG STUDENTS

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FIVE MORE STUDY ROOMS IN KWUN TONG, WITH 500 PLACES, WILL BE OPEN FOR STUDENTS FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) EVENING.

THEY ARE IN ZION YOUTH CENTRE IN KO CHIU ROAD ESTATE, JORDAN VALLEY KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION, CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE ON TSUI PING ROAD, THANKS GIVING CHURCH ON KWUN TONG ROAD, AND THE PEACE OF LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HONG KONG IN SAU MAU PING.

THE STUDY ROOMS WILL BE OPEN BETWEEN 7 PM AND 10 PM FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY, UNTIL JUNE 26.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 4 021 STUDY ROOM PLACES IN KWUN TONG PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

THE OPENING OF 500 MORE STUDY ROOM PLACES FOR STUDENTS WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE ALLOCATION OF \$19 000 FROM THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD.

AS ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF KWUN TONG'S POPULATION LIVE IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, THERE WAS NEED FOR A QUIET PLACE FOR LOCAL STUDENTS TO STUDY, ESPECIALLY DURING THE EXAMINATION PERIOD, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD SAID TODAY.

THE DISTRICT BOARD THUS DECIDED, THROUGH ITS SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, TO GRANT THE FUNDS TO PROVIDE STUDY ROOM PLACES FOR STUDENTS, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE CENTRES AND CHURCHES WERE CHOSEN BECAUSE THEY COULD EASILY BE CONVERTED INTO STUDY ROOMS AND THE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS WERE WILLING TO MANAGE THEM.

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FIRE HAZARD CHECK
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL CARRY OUT A FIRE HAZARD INSPECTION OF TWO COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN TSIM SHA TSUI TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE OPERATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT JOINTLY BY THE KOWLOON FIRE COMMAND AND FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU AND WILL START AT 10.15 AM, AT CHUNG KING MANSIONS AND MIRADOR MANSION, NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPERATION. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE MOBILE COMMAND UNIT AT NATHAN ROAD NEAR CHUNG KING MANSIONS AT 10.15 AM, WHERE THEY WILL BE MET BY THE FIRE SERVICES INFORMATION OFFICER.

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NO EMERGENCY SERVICE IN FIRST PHASE

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THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NEW PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL IN SHA TIN OPENS ON MONDAY (APRIL 30).

HOWEVER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SECTION OF THE HOSPITAL WILL NOT BE IN OPERATION UNTIL THE SECOND PHASE OPENS IN SEPTEMBER.

NEW TERRITORIES RESIDENTS REQUIRING URGENT MEDICAL ATTENTION SHOULD GO TO OTHER GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS IN THE DISTRICT, SUCH AS FANLING HOSPITAL, PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, POK OI HOSPITAL IN YUEN LONG, THE LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC IN TSUEN WAN AND THE TAI PO JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC, HE SAID.

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BIGGER OFFICE GEARED FOR MORE WORK

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A NEW BRANCH OFFICE OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE WAS OPENED TODAY (THURSDAY) AT NOS. 81 - 85 BULKELEY STREET, TO COPE WITH THE GREATLY INCREASED WORK-LOAD.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE TWO-STORY OFFICE, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GORDON JONES, SAID IT HAD THE BUSIEST PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTER, AND HANDLED MORE THAN 300 ENQUIRIES A DAY.

+IN ADDITION, THE BRANCH OFFICE STAFF ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR LIAISING WITH THE 84 MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND 52 OWNERS INCORPORATIONS IN HUNG HOM, HELPING TO ORGANISE MANY COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES AND IDENTIFYING AND SOLVING AREA PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID.

/HE SAID

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HE SAID THE AREA AROUND THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTER WAS MORE SPACIOUS, AND THERE WAS A MUCH-IMPROVED WORKING ENVIRONMENT.

THE OFFICE NOW HAS ITS OWN CONFERENCE ROOM FOR 35 PERSONS; THEREBY FACILITATING LIAISON WORK WITH THE PUBLIC. HE SAID.

THE OFFICE HAD BEEN OPERATING AT 32, WUHU STREET FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY, WHICH WAS PRECEDED BY A LION DANCE, WERE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MR WONG WING-PIU, MR WU SHING-SHUEN AND MR PAO PING-WING.

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CONTRACT FOR PROMENADES PROJECT

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A \$24 MILLION CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTING PROMENADES ALONG THE BANKS OF THE SHING MUN RIVER IN SHA TIN WAS AWARDED TODAY (THURSDAY).

IT WAS SIGNED BY THE SHA TIN PROJECT MANAGER, MR C.K. CHOW, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CORPORATION.

THE PROMENADES WILL STRETCH OVER FOUR KILOMETRES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER FRONTAGE FROM JAT MIN CHUEN TO THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE AND THEIR WIDTH WILL VARY FROM SEVEN TO 20 METRES.

EACH WILL CONSIST OF A FOOTPATH AND A CYCLE TRACK, FORMING PART OF AN EXTENSIVE PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE TRACK SYSTEM THROUGHOUT THE NEW TOWN.

THERE WILL BE CYCLE PARKING AND SITTING AREAS AT CONVENIENT LOCATIONS, EXTENSIVE TREE AND SHRUB PLANTING AS WELL AS A SERIES OF OPEN SPACES.

OTHER FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE REFRESHMENT KIOSKS, CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS AND PUBLIC TOILETS, ALL IN AN ATTRACTIVE LANDSCAPED SETTING.

PROVISION WILL ALSO BE MADE FOR MOORING ROWING BOATS ON THE PART OF THE RIVER OPPOSITE SHA TIN CENTRAL PARK.

CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL START SOON AND BE COMPLETED IN ONE YEAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

SINGING CONTEST
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TWELVE OUT OF 200 YOUNG PEOPLE IN MONG KOK HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY AUDITION TO COMPETE IN A SINGING CONTEST ON SATURDAY (APRIL 28) AT THE CHAN HING COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTRE IN FUK TSUEN STREET, STARTING AT 8 PM.

MONG KOK IS THE FIFTH DISTRICT TO HOLD THE 18-DISTRICT AMATEUR SINGING CONTEST ORGANISED AS PART OF A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE COMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

ADJUDICATORS FOR THE MONG KOK DISTRICT SINGING CONTEST WILL BE A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR HO FEI-CHI, A DISC JOCKEY FROM RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, MISS TAM WAI-WAH, AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE POLYGRAM RECORDS COMPANY.

THE CONTEST IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE 18 DISTRICT OFFICES, RTHK AND SING TAO NEWSPAPERS LIMITED.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MONG KOK DISTRICT SINGING CONTEST.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

SUPPLY CONTRACT TO BE SIGNED
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THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR GRAHAM OSBORNE, WILL SIGN AN \$8.3 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HIGH VOLTAGE EQUIPMENT FOR A POWER SUB-STATION AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SIGNING CEREMONY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 98, CAROLINE HILL ROAD, 8TH FLOOR, AT 2.30 PM.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1984

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SAI KUNG SITE TENANCY OFFERED
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A SITE IN SAI KUNG IS BEING OFFERED FOR SHORT-TERM TENANCY BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE SITE, FOR OPEN STORAGE, HAS AN AREA OF 3 231 SQUARE METRES AND IS LOCATED AT SAI KUNG TUK.

IT HAS AN INITIAL TENANCY OF ONE YEAR WHICH CAN BE RENEWED AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS MAY 11.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT :

- * LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250, SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, SAI KUNG, SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 692, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON.

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RESTRICTED ZONE IN MONG KOK ROAD
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FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (APRIL 28), THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF MONG KOK ROAD BETWEEN TONG MEI ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES TO THE EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TONG MEI ROAD WILL BECOME A RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AND THOSE AUTHORIZED IN WRITING BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS AND LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS.

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