



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
EXCO LEAVES FOR LONDON	1
FOREIGN INVESTMENT KEEPS COMING -- SIR JOHN	1
AIRBORNE TRADE RISES SHARPLY	3
WOMEN VOLUNTEERS READY TO SERVE COMMUNITY	6
PHASE 3 OF MAYFAIR GARDENS CALLED OFF	7
\$46.5 MILLION PUBLIC HOUSING WORKS	8
CUSTOMS AND EXCISE CELEBRATE	9
NEW LAUNCH FOR CUSTOMS AND EXCISE	10
SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED	11
HOUSING FESTIVAL CONTESTS FOR STUDENTS	11
WOONG VOTERS WITH SONG	12
TWO CONSERVATIVE MP'S DUE	13
PROMOTING FAMILY LIFE	13
SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS OFFERED	14
RAILWAY SEWERAGE WORK	14
FOOD MARKET STALLS OFFERED	15
ROAD CLOSURE	15
WATER FIGURES	16
WATER LEAKAGE TESTS	16

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

- 1 -

EXCO LEAVES FOR LONDON
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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, TOGETHER WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, AND THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR PETER TSAO, LEFT FOR LONDON THIS (MONDAY) EVENING.

THEY WERE SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE.

THE GROUP WILL JOIN THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, IN LONDON AND WILL BE MEETING THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS ON SEPTEMBER 19 AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH MINISTERS ON THE NEGOTIATION IN PEKING ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

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FOREIGN INVESTMENT KEEPS COMING -- SIR JOHN
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DESPITE POLITICAL CONCERNS AND THE THREATS OF INCREASED PROTECTIONISM, IT IS VERY MUCH BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR HONG KONG, WITH FOREIGN INVESTMENT CONTINUING TO COME IN, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING TO THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION/FAR EAST-AMERICA COUNCIL IN NEW YORK, SIR JOHN SAID, +THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INCLINED TO WRITE US OFF ARE MISTAKEN AND, MORE SERIOUSLY, ARE DOING HONG KONG AN UNJUSTIFIED DISSERVICE.+

OVER THE PAST DECADE HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT HAS GROWN BY AN AVERAGE OF EIGHT PER CENT A YEAR IN REAL TERMS.

+GIVEN THAT THIS PERIOD INCLUDES TWO RECESSIONS, IN 1974-75 AND IN 1982 -- WHEN THE GROWTH RATE WAS ONLY ONE TO TWO PER CENT -- AN AVERAGE GROWTH RATE OF EIGHT PER CENT IS ENCOURAGING AND REFLECTS THE ABILITY OF THE RESILIENT PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+AS A RESULT WE HAVE NO PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT: IN FACT SOME SHORTAGES ARE LOOMING,+ HE SAID.

GDP IS NOW FORECAST TO GROW BY EIGHT PER CENT IN 1984, A RATE DESCRIBED BY SIR JOHN AS +PRETTY REMARKABLE IN THE LIGHT OF THE SHOCKS WE HAVE ABSORBED.+

REAFFIRMING HIS INTENTION TO MOVE TO BALANCED BUDGETS IN TWO YEARS, HE SAID, +WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY, WITH THE DEFICIT THIS YEAR EXPECTED TO BE ONLY ABOUT 0.5 PER CENT OF GDP. I DO NOT LIKE DEFICITS AT ALL BUT YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT THIS IS FAIRLY INSIGNIFICANT.+

/ON BUDGETARY

ON BUDGETARY POLICIES, SIR JOHN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ABSORBED A DROP OF ABOUT 25 PER CENT IN ANNUAL REVENUE AS A RESULT OF THE FALL IN LAND PRICES.

HE EXPECTED THE BUDGET DEFICIT FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR TO BE LESS THAN THE \$2.1 BILLION FORECAST EARLIER.

+HONG KONG IS, I THINK, UNIQUE IN HAVING NO NET CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEBT. IN FACT WE HAVE AT PRESENT FISCAL RESERVES, THAT IS TO SAY, A SURPLUS OF REVENUE CARRIED FORWARD, OF ABOUT HK\$16 BILLION.

+EVEN TAKING CONTINGENCIES AGAINST THIS ON A CONSERVATIVE BASIS OF 3 TO 1, WE SHOULD STILL HAVE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR FREE FISCAL RESERVES OF OVER HK\$9 BILLION,+ HE SAID.

THE PUBLIC SECTOR'S EXPENDITURE THIS YEAR HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CURTAILED, WITH ITS RELATIVE SIZE TO BE REDUCED TO 17.5 PER CENT OF GDP, DOWN FROM 19.4 PER CENT LAST YEAR, HE SAID.

THE FORECAST RATE OF INFLATION, AS MEASURED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, IS NINE PER CENT FOR 1984 AS A WHOLE. THIS REPRESENTS A SLOWING DOWN DURING THE YEAR, FROM OVER 12 PER CENT IN JANUARY DOWN TO PROBABLY SEVEN PER CENT BY DECEMBER.

AND SIR JOHN LOOKED TO A FURTHER DROP IN THE INFLATION RATE NEXT YEAR, WITH THE CONTINUING STABILITY IN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR REMAINING ONE OF THE FAVOURABLE FACTORS.

IN RECENT YEARS THE PROPERTY SECTOR HAS REMAINED DEPRESSED, EXCEPT FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE RATE OF TAKE-UP OF FINISHED PROPERTY REFLECTING FALLING PRICES AND RENTALS.

+THESE FALLS HAVE, HOWEVER, OBVIOUSLY BENEFITED POTENTIAL HOME-OWNERS AND BUSINESSMEN WHO WISH TO EXPAND THEIR OPERATIONS IN HONG KONG.

+IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER MAJOR CITIES, PRICES AND RENTALS FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY IN HONG KONG HAVE NOW FALLEN TO A COMPETITIVE LEVEL,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

- 3 -

AIRBORNE TRADE RISES SHARPLY

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE BY AIR FROM JANUARY TO JUNE THIS YEAR CAME TO \$48 639 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 41 PER CENT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO SUMMARY FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE VALUED AT \$17 880 MILLION (UP 46 PER CENT), AIRBORNE IMPORTS AT \$22 108 MILLION (UP 35 PER CENT) AND AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS AT \$8 651 MILLION (UP 46 PER CENT).

IN THAT SIX-MONTH PERIOD, 29 PER CENT OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 21 PER CENT OF IMPORTS AND 23 PER CENT OF RE-EXPORTS, ALL BY VALUE, WERE CARRIED BY AIR.

IN WEIGHT TERMS, AIRBORNE IMPORTS AMOUNTED TO 76 988 TONNES, REPRESENTING 0.4 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL IMPORT TONNAGE, AND TOTAL AIRBORNE EXPORTS AMOUNTED TO 118 327 TONNES OR 1.7 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL EXPORT TONNAGE.

BY COMMODITY, INCREASES IN AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED MAINLY IN CLOTHING (BY \$2 443 MILLION OR 64 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$1 969 MILLION OR 140 PER CENT), JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES AND OTHER ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS (BY \$345 MILLION OR 69 PER CENT) AND THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, PHOTOCELLS, TRANSISTORS AND PARTS (BY \$231 MILLION OR 39 PER CENT).

DECREASES IN VALUE WERE RECORDED FOR AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ORES AND CONCENTRATES OF PRECIOUS METALS, WASTE, SCRAPS AND SWEEPINGS OF PRECIOUS METALS (OTHER THAN OF GOLD) (BY \$181 MILLION OR 38 PER CENT), OFFICE AND STATIONERY SUPPLIES (BY \$79 MILLION OR 58 PER CENT) AND MISCELLANEOUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, PARTS AND ACCESSORIES (BY \$75 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT).

FURTHER ANALYSIS OF COMMODITY BY COUNTRY REVEALED SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING TO THE U.S. (BY \$1 422 MILLION OR 67 PER CENT) AND JAPAN (BY \$337 MILLION OR 125 PER CENT), IN AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT TO THE U.S. (BY \$1 243 MILLION OR 113 PER CENT) AND THE U.K. (BY \$342 MILLION OR 965 PER CENT) AND IN AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES AND OTHER ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS TO THE U.S. (BY \$237 MILLION OR 115 PER CENT) AND JAPAN (BY \$45 MILLION OR 55 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ORES AND CONCENTRATES OF PRECIOUS METALS, WASTE, SCRAPS AND SWEEPINGS OF PRECIOUS METALS (OTHER THAN OF GOLD) TO THE U.K. (BY \$254 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT) AND OFFICE AND STATIONERY SUPPLIES TO THE U.S. (BY \$13 MILLION OR 52 PER CENT).

/INCREASES WERE

- 4 -

INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, PHOTOCELLS, TRANSISTORS AND PARTS (BY \$2 066 MILLION OR 65 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$736 MILLION OR 64 PER CENT), PEARL, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES (BY \$467 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT), FURSKINS, TANNED OR DRESSED (BY \$328 MILLION OR 107 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$315 MILLION OR NINE PER CENT). IN CONTRAST, DECREASES WERE NOTED IN IMPORTS BY AIR OF AIRCRAFT AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT (BY \$337 MILLION OR 65 PER CENT), AND BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$106 MILLION OR 59 PER CENT).

GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, PHOTOCELLS AND TRANSISTORS FROM JAPAN (BY \$646 MILLION OR 69 PER CENT) AND THE U.S. (BY \$637 MILLION OR 70 PER CENT), AS WELL AS IN OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT FROM THE U.S. (BY \$445 MILLION OR 58 PER CENT) AND JAPAN (BY \$98 MILLION OR 57 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF AIRCRAFT AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT FROM THE U.S. (BY \$330 MILLION OR 71 PER CENT), FROM JAPAN (BY \$19 MILLION OR 100 PER CENT), AND FROM AUSTRALIA (BY \$6 MILLION OR 66 PER CENT).

AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS EXPERIENCED CONSIDERABLE GROWTH IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1984. CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN VALUE WERE REGISTERED FOR THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, PHOTOCELLS, TRANSISTORS AND PARTS (BY \$1 300 MILLION OR 120 PER CENT) AND CLOTHING (BY \$308 MILLION OR 124 PER CENT) AND PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES (BY \$154 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT). HOWEVER, AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS OF PARTS AND ACCESSORIES OF OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES DECREASED (BY \$50 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT).

THE U.S. WAS THE LARGEST MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS, WITH A VALUE OF \$1 634 MILLION (AN INCREASE OF \$714 MILLION OR 78 PER CENT). NOTABLE INCREASES WERE ALSO REGISTERED IN AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN (BY \$617 MILLION OR 83 PER CENT), JAPAN (BY \$284 MILLION OR 52 PER CENT), CHINA (BY \$254 MILLION OR 85 PER CENT) AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (BY \$219 MILLION OR 86 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO ISRAEL AND KUWAIT DECREASED CONSIDERABLY (BY \$51 MILLION OR 44 PER CENT AND \$23 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY).

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT '+HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE+', FOR JUNE 1984, NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE.

/TABLE 1 :

TABLE 1 : CHANGES IN AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR MARKET

	JAN-JUNE 1984 (\$ MN.)	JAN-JUNE 1983 (\$ MN.)	INCREASE (\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE %
U.S.A.	9 107	5 747	+3 360	+58
F.R. OF GERMANY	1 485	1 035	+ 450	+44
JAPAN	1 250	683	+ 567	+83
U.K.	1 201	969	+ 231	+24
CANADA	552	406	+ 146	+36
NETHERLANDS	433	332	+ 101	+31
SWITZERLAND	411	349	+ 62	+18
SINGAPORE	400	257	+ 143	+55
FRANCE	330	255	+ 75	+29
AUSTRALIA	250	161	+ 88	+55

TABLE 2 : CHANGES IN AIRBORNE IMPORTS BY MAJOR SUPPLIER

	JAN-JUNE 1984 (\$ MN.)	JAN-JUNE 1983 (\$ MN.)	INCREASE (\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE %
JAPAN	5 281	3 964	+1 317	+33
U.S.A.	4 887	3 641	+1 245	+34
U.K.	1 470	889	+ 580	+65
SWITZERLAND	1 167	1 054	+ 113	+11
TAIWAN	1 033	945	+ 88	+ 9
SINGAPORE	979	826	+ 154	+19
REP. OF KOREA	832	653	+ 180	+28
F.R. OF GERMANY	767	588	+ 179	+30
ITALY	640	504	+ 136	+27
FRANCE	614	436	+ 178	+41

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

- 6 -

WOMEN VOLUNTEERS READY TO SERVE COMMUNITY.
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THE FIRST THREE WOMEN VOLUNTEERS RECRUITED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE SINCE 1960 HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON.

THIS IS: THEIR LOVE OF AVIATION WORK AND THEIR DESIRE TO BE PART OF AN ESSENTIAL VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY SERVICE.

THE THREE VOLUNTEERS -- ROSA CHAK SUK-CHING, EILLIE CHANG MI-FUN AND ADA TSE WAI-CHE -- WERE SELECTED RECENTLY FROM AMONG 190 APPLICANTS COMING FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

THE THREE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT FOR TWO TO FIVE YEARS.

ROSA IS AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER OFFICER, EILLIE AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL ASSISTANT, AND ADA AN AERONAUTICAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER OF THE CAD.

+THEIR PRESENT EMPLOYMENT AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF AVIATION MEAN THAT THEY CAN TAKE UP THE JOB EASILY,+ SAID A FLIGHT LIEUTENANT OF THE RHKAAF, MR KALID RAZACK, WHO IS THE FLIGHT COMMANDER OF THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SECTION.

+WE ALSO LOOK FOR APPLICANTS WITH AN OUTGOING PERSONALITY AND A KEEN INTEREST IN AVIATION. WE PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TRAINING.

+FLUENCY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH IS A REQUIREMENT AS AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL PERSONNEL HAVE TO COMMUNICATE WITH PILOTS IN ENGLISH,+ MR RAZACK SAID.

HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE WOMEN VOLUNTEERS WOULD BE AS COMPETENT AS THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS.

+THE RHKAAF IS NOT ONLY AN ORGANISATION PERFORMING FLYING TASKS BUT ALSO A DISCIPLINED FORCE THAT DEMANDS GROUP SPIRIT AND STRICT ADHERENCE TO RULES FROM ITS MEMBERS. AND I LIKE TO BE TRAINED IN THESE ASPECTS,+ SAID ROSA WHO HAD BEEN A GIRL GUIDE DURING HER SCHOOL DAYS.

BOTH EILLIE AND ADA SAID THEY WERE WILLING TO PUT IN THE NECESSARY TRAINING TIME DURING WEEKENDS TO ATTAIN THE STANDARD OF PROFICIENCY REQUIRED.

THE THREE OF THEM ARE NOW BEING TRAINED IN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, OPERATIONS AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS, AND ATTEND AN EVENING LECTURE EVERY THURSDAY.

+THEY WILL SOON BE DEPLOYED TO WORK ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS AT THE SHEK KONG AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER,+ MR RAZACK SAID.

ROSA, WHO IS ALREADY A LICENSED AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER, WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING A SAFE, ORDERLY AND EXPEDITIOUS FLOW OF AIR TRAFFIC AT SHEK KONG.

/DURING PEAK

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

- 7 -

DURING PEAK TIMES, SOME 20 AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS AN HOUR MAKE USE OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES PROVIDED THERE.

EILLIE AND ADA WILL WORK AS AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL ASSISTANTS, PROVIDING INFORMATION SERVICES TO PLANES FLYING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THESE PLANES ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT TO THE SHEK KONG SECTOR OPERATOR EVERY 15 MINUTES. IF THEY BECOME OVERDUE FOR 30 MINUTES, THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL ASSISTANT WILL ALERT THE UNITS CONCERNED TO START SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS,+ MR RAZACK EXPLAINED.

WITH THE THREE WOMEN VOLUNTEERS, THE RHKAAF NOW HAS 12 AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL STAFF.

+WE ARE ALSO FINALISING ARRANGEMENTS FOR A FOURTH FEMALE MEMBER TO JOIN THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SECTION,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT MORE WOMEN VOLUNTEERS WOULD BE RECRUITED IN FUTURE TO WORK IN ADMINISTRATION AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS.

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PHASE 3 OF MAYFAIR GARDENS CALLED OFF
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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHASE 3 OF THE MAYFAIR GARDENS HOUSING COMPLEX ON TSING YI SHOULD NOT GO AHEAD IN VIEW OF ITS PROXIMITY TO OIL STORAGE INSTALLATIONS ON THE ISLAND.

THE DECISION FOLLOWS RECOMMENDATIONS BY A WORKING GROUP FORMED LAST JUNE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, TO CONSIDER WHAT COMBINATION OF MEASURES COULD BE TAKEN TO REDUCE THE RISK FACTOR AT MAYFAIR GARDENS, WHICH CONSULTANTS HAD ASSESSED AS BEING ON THE BORDERLINE OF ACCEPTABILITY.

FOR THE REMAINDER OF TSING YI, THE CONSULTANTS CONCLUDED THAT RISK LEVELS WERE COMPARABLE TO THOSE WHICH WERE ACCEPTED IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS WORLDWIDE.

THEY ALSO CONCLUDED THAT THERE WERE NO PUBLIC SAFETY REASONS FOR HALTING THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE ISLAND.

AFTER CONSIDERING THE WORKING GROUP'S FINDINGS, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AGREED THAT THE PHASE 3 DEVELOPMENT OF MAYFAIR GARDENS, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN CLOSEST TO THE MOBIL OIL STORAGE INSTALLATION, SHOULD NOT PROCEED.

/A GOVERNMENT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

- 8 -

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT AN ALTERNATIVE SITE WAS BEING PROVIDED ELSEWHERE ON A LAND EXCHANGE BASIS FOR THIS PARTICULAR DEVELOPMENT.

THE WORKING GROUP ALSO REPORTED THAT THE MOBIL INSTALLATION WAS ALREADY DESIGNED AND OPERATED TO A VERY HIGH STANDARD.

NEVERTHELESS, THE GAS ADVISER AND THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD IDENTIFIED SOME ADDITIONAL MEASURES WHICH COULD BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE SAFETY STILL FURTHER AND HELP REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF INCIDENTS AND THE CONSEQUENCES THEREOF SHOULD THEY OCCUR. THESE MEASURES ARE NOW BEING EXAMINED WITH MOBIL.

THE COMPANY IS ALSO STUDYING THE CONSULTANTS' FINDINGS AND THE GOVERNMENT IS AWAITING THEIR DETAILED REPLY. ONCE THIS IS RECEIVED AND EVALUATED, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL BE CONSULTED ON WHETHER THERE IS ANY NEED TO SEEK THE REMOVAL OF LPG STORAGE TANKS FROM THE MOBIL SITE.

ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT SOME OF THE COMPANIES WHICH PROVIDED INFORMATION ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS TO THE CONSULTANTS DID NOT WISH THE REPORT TO BE MADE PUBLIC BECAUSE IT CONTAINED PRIVATE COMMERCIAL INFORMATION.

+THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACCEPTED THAT, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FULL REPORT SHOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT MR AKERS-JONES WOULD SOON HOLD A FURTHER MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD AND THE TSING YI AREA COMMITTEE TO BRIEF THEM ON THE LATEST SITUATION, AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH INFORMATION REQUESTED AT THEIR PREVIOUS MEETING ON AUGUST 20.

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\$46.5 MILLION PUBLIC HOUSING WORKS
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TODAY AWARDED EIGHT CONTRACTS TOTALLING \$46.5 MILLION FOR A VARIETY OF WORKS ON PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

SIGNED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR PANG YUK-LING, THE FIRST CONTRACT OF \$8.8 MILLION IS FOR PILING TO FOUNDATIONS OF BUILDING BLOCKS TO BE CONSTRUCTED UNDER PHASES TWO AND THREE OF THE NEW HIN KENG ESTATE IN SHA TIN.

THE BUILDINGS TO BE BUILT WILL COMPRISE TWO TRIDENT BLOCKS, A MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK AND A COMMERCIAL CENTRE.

/FOUR OTHER

- 9 -

FOUR OTHER CONTRACTS COSTING MORE THAN \$35.8 MILLION ARE FOR INSTALLATION OF LIFTS AND ESCALATORS IN NEWLY COMPLETED BUILDINGS AND COMMERCIAL CENTRES AT THE LEI TUNG ESTATE IN AP LEI CHAU, TIN PING ESTATE IN YUEN LONG, FU SHIN ESTATE IN TAI PO AND TUNG TAU ESTATE IN KOWLOON.

UNDER TWO LANDSCAPING CONTRACTS TOGETHER WORTH \$1.6 MILLION, MORE GREENERY WILL BE ADDED TO THE LUNG HANG ESTATE IN SHA TIN AND THE WANG TAU HOM (LOK FU) COMPLEX IN KOWLOON.

THE LAST CONTRACT, VALUED AT \$358 150, IS FOR SITE INVESTIGATION FOR THE PHASE FIVE REDEVELOPMENT OF TAI HANG TUNG ESTATE WHERE FOUR MARK I BLOCKS WILL BE DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE NEW RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS.

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CUSTOMS AND EXCISE CELEBRATE
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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE THIS (MONDAY) EVENING PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE WHICH +HAS A DESERVEDLY HIGH REPUTATION IN HONG KONG AND INTERNATIONALLY.+

SPEAKING AT A COCKTAIL RECEPTION MARKING THE DIAMOND JUBILEE, THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SERVICE, SIR PHILIP CONGRATULATED ALL OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WHO GREATLY REGRETTED HIS INABILITY TO BE PRESENT.

SIR PHILIP SAID THAT AS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE HE DEEMED IT AN HONOUR TO BE DEPUTISING FOR THE GOVERNOR ON THIS OCCASION.

+ON THIS DAY IN 1909, 26 REVENUE OFFICERS WERE APPOINTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE THEN IMPORT AND EXPORT DEPARTMENT TO ENFORCE THE LIQUORS ORDINANCE ENACTED TO PROVIDE FOR THE COLLECTION OF DUTY ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WHICH ALAS MUST BE TAXED EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE SO VITAL TO CIVILISED LIVING. THESE APPOINTMENTS MARKED THE BIRTH OF THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE.

+TODAY, 75 YEARS LATER, THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE IS A DISCIPLINED FORCE OF 2 554 OFFICERS AND MEN IN AN INDEPENDENT CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WITH A TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT OF 3 303 POSTS.

+THE DEPARTMENT HAS RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXERCISES POWERS UNDER SOME 28 SEPARATE PIECES OF LEGISLATION AND IS CURRENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COLLECTION OF NEARLY \$3 BILLION WORTH OF REVENUE.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

- 10 -

+THE REVENUE PROTECTION DUTIES OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE ARE CLASSIC, BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT AND IN MANY WAYS MORE ONEROUS ARE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PREVENTING ILLEGAL TRADE IN NARCOTICS AND COUNTERFEITS AND FOR ENFORCING A WIDE RANGE OF TRADE, SECURITY AND HEALTH RELATED MEASURES,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

IN HIS SPEECH, THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR HARNAM GREWAL, SAID: +TODAY IS A PROUD DAY FOR US FOR WE ARE THIS DAY 75 YEARS OLD - SEPTUAGENARIANS SOME WOULD SAY. BUT FAR FROM BEING RICKETY, DODDERRING ON ITS FEET, THE SERVICE IS IN FACT YOUNG, IN GOOD HEART AND KEEN TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.+

HE THANKED SIR PHILIP FOR THE TOAST AND FOR THE VERY KIND WORDS HE HAD TO SAY.

MR GREWAL ADDED: +I SHOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY ALSO TO THANK ALL OUR FRIENDS BOTH HERE IN HONG KONG AND ABROAD FOR THEIR WELL-WISHES AND FOR ALL THE HELP THEY HAVE GIVEN TO US OVER THE YEARS. OUR THOUGHTS TOO ARE WITH THOSE MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE WHO FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER CANNOT BE HERE TODAY TO HELP US CELEBRATE THIS AUSPICIOUS OCCASION.+

MR GREWAL THEN INVITED LADY HADDON-CAVE TO CUT THE ANNIVERSARY CAKE.

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NEW LAUNCH FOR CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

ONE OF THE TWO REPLACEMENT LAUNCHES FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE - CUSTOMS LAUNCH NO. 1 - WAS COMMISSIONED THIS (MONDAY) MORNING AS PART OF THE PROGRAM TO CELEBRATE THE SERVICE'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY TODAY.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR HARNAM GREWAL, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, MR KEITH BROADBRIDGE, AND STAFF FROM THE HARBOUR DIVISION TOOK THE LAUNCH TO JOSS HOUSE BAY THIS MORNING TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE GODDESS TIN HAU - THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND PROTECTRESS OF SEAFARERS.

THE NEW LAUNCH, BUILT BY A HONG KONG SHIPYARD AT A COST OF ABOUT \$1 MILLION, HAS A CAPACITY FOR 40 PERSONS. IT WILL BE USED IN THE HARBOUR AREAS.

ITS SISTER LAUNCH WILL BE COMMISSIONED NEXT MONTH.

/11

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

- 11 -

SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED

A SPECIAL COUNTER HAS BEEN SET UP AT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S LICENSING OFFICE AT DUNDAS STREET TO SERVE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

THE COUNTER, NUMBER FIVE, HANDLES APPLICATIONS FOR LEARNER'S AND FULL DRIVING LICENCES, DRIVING TEST FORMS AND RENEWAL OF VEHICLE LICENCES.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE SPECIAL FACILITY WOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO THE HANDICAPPED IN PROCESSING LICENSING OR DRIVING TEST FORMALITIES.

HE ADDED THAT SIMILAR FACILITIES, INCLUDING SPECIAL ACCESS AND TOILET COMPARTMENTS FOR THE DISABLED, WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE KWUN TONG LICENSING OFFICE WHEN IT IS REPROVISIONED NEXT APRIL.

UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, DISABLED PERSONS WITH WALKING DIFFICULTIES MAY APPLY FOR EXEMPTION FROM DRIVING LICENCE AND DRIVING TEST FORM FEES, THE VEHICLES LICENCE FEE AND FIRST REGISTRATION TAX.

IN ADDITION, THEY MAY ALSO APPLY FOR EARLY DRIVING TESTS AND PRIVILEGED PARKING LABELS, WHICH ENTITLE THEM TO PARK AT METERED SPACES ON STREET FREE OF CHARGE.

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HOUSING FESTIVAL CONTESTS FOR STUDENTS

PRIMARY AND KINDERGARTEN PUPILS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A SCHOOL CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION AND A CHINESE ESSAY COMPETITION IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1984 HOUSING FESTIVAL TO BE HELD DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER THIS YEAR.

THE COMPETITIONS ARE ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

PRIMARY 1 TO 3 AND KINDERGARTEN PUPILS CAN JOIN THE SCHOOL CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION WHOSE THEME IS +MY IMPRESSIONS OF HOUSING ESTATES+.

THE TYPES OF WORK WHICH CAN BE ENTERED INCLUDE DRAWING, PAINTING, PRINTMAKING, COLLAGE OR ANY OTHER TWO-DIMENSIONAL ART WORK. THEIR MAXIMUM SIZE IS A2 -- 420MM BY 594MM.

TWELVE FIRST PRIZES -- BOOK TOKENS OF \$500 EACH -- WILL BE AWARDED FOR THE BEST ENTRIES.

/THERE WILL

THERE WILL ALSO BE 20 COMMENDATION PRIZES IN THE FORM OF BOOK TOKENS TO THE VALUE OF \$100 EACH.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT WILL BE AWARDED TO ALL THE PRIZE WINNERS AND TROPHIES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE SCHOOLS OF THE FIRST PRIZE WINNERS.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS SHOULD SEND THEIR STUDENTS' ENTRIES TO THE DESIGNATED COLLECTING CENTRES BY OCTOBER 26.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT THE ART AND CRAFT SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON 5-621967.

THE CHINESE ESSAY COMPETITION IS FOR PRIMARY 4 TO 6 PUPILS, WITH +MY IMPRESSIONS OF HOUSING ESTATES+ AS THE TOPIC. ENTRIES SHOULD BE FROM 300 TO 400 WORDS.

ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH SCHOOLS BY OCTOBER 31 TO THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY AT 01 MAN ESTATE OFFICE, 01 MAN ESTATE, CHUNG HAU STREET, KOWLOON.

EACH SCHOOL SHOULD NOT SUBMIT MORE THAN TWO ENTRIES.

THE WINNERS OF THE FIRST PRIZE WILL RECEIVE A MERIT CERTIFICATE AND A BOOK COUPON OF \$1 000, AND A TROPHY WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE WINNING SCHOOL.

THE SECOND AND THIRD PRIZE WINNER WILL EACH RECEIVE A MERIT CERTIFICATE AND A BOOK COUPON OF \$800 AND \$500 RESPECTIVELY.

THERE WILL BE 30 MERIT AWARDS, AND EACH WINNER WILL RECEIVE A MERIT CERTIFICATE AND A BOOK COUPON OF \$100.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT THE CHINESE SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON 5-8392443.

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WOONG VOTERS WITH SONG

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A BUSLOAD OF SINGERS WILL TOUR KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT TOMORROW (TUESDAY) FROM 11 AM TO 8 PM, TO URGE MORE PEOPLE TO REGISTER AS VOTERS.

WHILE THE ENTERTAINERS PERFORM, THE OPEN-TOP BUS, DECORATED WITH POSTERS AND BANNERS, WILL DRIVE SLOWLY ALONG THE ROADS.

AT THE SAME TIME, DISTRICT OFFICER MR GORDON JONES AND HIS STAFF WILL BE HELPING PASSERS-BY TO FILL IN VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

- 13 -

AND IN THE EVENING ON HONG KONG SIDE, ALSO TOMORROW, ABOUT 40 EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF MEMBERS AND TEMPORARY COMMUNITY ORGANISERS, TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS OF VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS WILL BE VISITING FAMILIES IN THE BRAEMAR HILL AREA TO ENCOURAGE VOTER REGISTRATION.

THEY WILL VISIT ABOUT 1 150 HOUSEHOLDS LIVING IN BRAEMAR HILL MANSION, TEMPLE COURT AND HO KING VIEW.

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TWO CONSERVATIVE MP'S DUE
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THE PROGRAMME OF MP VISITS WILL CONTINUE, WITH TWO CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS, THE RT. HON. PETER THOMAS AND MR RICHARD NEEDHAM, DUE HERE SHORTLY.

MR THOMAS IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AND MR NEEDHAM, ON WEDNESDAY.

THEY WILL MEET MEMBERS OF UMELCO AND THE URBAN COUNCIL, AND WILL BE BRIEFED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS.

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE FOR THEM TO MEET MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AND CIVIL SERVICE UNION REPRESENTATIVES.

THE MP'S WILL VISIT TSUEN WAN DISTRICT, CHI MA WAN VIETNAMESE REFUGEES CLOSED CENTRE, A FACTORY AND HOUSING ESTATES.

THEY WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 25. MR NEEDHAM WILL DEPART THE SAME DAY AND MR THOMAS THE FOLLOWING DAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PROMOTING FAMILY LIFE
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A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THIS YEAR'S TERRITORY-WIDE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WILL BE HELD IN ROOM KAPOK, UNITED RESTAURANT, UNITED CENTRE, SIXTH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY, AT 12.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

PRESENT WILL BE MR SIMON LUN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING (TELEVISION); MR ALEXANDER FUNG, ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE (OPERATIONS); MR JACOB CHAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE; MRS BETTY SHUM, PRINCIPAL INFORMATION OFFICER (PROMOTIONS), GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, AND DR C.W. CHUANG, A SPONSOR.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

- 14 -

SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS OFFERED
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR REGISTRATION NUMBERS ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 22) IN THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL, STARTING AT 10 AM.

THIRTY-FIVE SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS WILL BE OFFERED FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

CL 18	DD 661	DD 928	DC3228
DD 501	DC8288	DD 436	DD 861
BW 888	DD 326	DD 288	DC 500
DD1011	DD1318	AA 800	BE9998
DD 223	38	DD 911	CY 1
HK 69	DD1018	DC9099	DC5224
DD 822	DC9951	DC2888	DD 218
DD 994	CW 88	DC 3	DD 233
AD2000	DC6015	DD1283	

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL, AS USUAL, GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

A VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE AUCTION WILL BE THE 93RD ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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RAILWAY SEWERAGE WORK
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IMPROVEMENT WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT SOON ON THE SEWERAGE AND FIRE SERVICES SYSTEM OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WORKSHOPS AND DEPOT AT HO TUNG LAU IN SHA TIN.

THE WORK WILL INVOLVE LAYING OF FOUL SEWERS AND BUILDING A PUMP CHAMBER. TWO STEEL WATER TANKS WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED, TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES WORK TO IMPROVE THE FIRE SERVICES SYSTEM.

A \$970 000 CONTRACT FOR THE WORK HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

WORK WILL START THIS WEEK AND BE COMPLETED IN FIVE MONTHS.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

- 15 -

FOOD MARKET STALLS OFFERED
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ELEVEN STALLS AT THE TAI YUEN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET AND TWO AT THE WO YI HOP ROAD COOKED FOOD MARKET WILL BE PUT UP FOR AUCTION ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 19), STARTING AT 10 AM.

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT THE KWAI FONG COMMUNITY HALL AT LAI FONG STREET IN KWAI CHUNG, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE HAWKERS AND MARKETS SECTION OF KWAI CHUNG URBAN SERVICES OFFICE ON TELEPHONE 0-253624.

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ROAD CLOSURE
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A SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 12 MIDNIGHT TO 5 AM ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 18 AND 19).

THE SECTION IS BETWEEN THE YUEN LONG EAST ROUNDABOUT AND A POINT 50 METRES TO ITS NORTH-WEST.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE ROUNDABOUT DURING THE CLOSURE.

FROM THURSDAY TO SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 20 TO 22), THE SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN THE ROUNDABOUT AND A POINT 40 METRES TO THE SOUTH-WEST WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE SAME HOURS.

TRAFFIC WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE NORTHERN SECTION OF THE ROUNDABOUT.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

- 16 -

WATER FIGURES
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 86.8 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 508.635 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 567.866 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 96.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WATER LEAKAGE TESTS
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WATER SUPPLY TO NORTH POINT AND SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 20) FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN NORTH POINT, THE SUPPLY WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY SHU KUK STREET, KING'S ROAD, NORTH POINT ROAD AND WHARF ROAD, INCLUDING THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT, PROVIDENT CENTRE AND THE WEST MAIN BLOCK AND WEST POINT BLOCK OF NORTH POINT ESTATE.

IN SHAM SHUI PO, THE SUPPLY WILL ALSO BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 20) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY NAM CHEONG STREET, CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD, WONG CHUK STREET AND LAI CHI KOK ROAD.

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