



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1985

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COMMENTS SOUGHT ON HK SHIPPING REGISTER PLAN
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) PUBLISHED A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER TO BE IN PLACE AND WORKING EFFECTIVELY WELL BEFORE 1997.

IT IS HOPED TO HAVE ALL COMMENTS FROM INTERESTED PARTIES, BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS BY THE END OF JULY.

THE DECISION TO PUBLISH INITIAL GOVERNMENT THINKING ON THE SHIPPING REGISTER WAS GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON TUESDAY.

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GERRY HIGGINSON, EXPLAINED THAT HONG KONG WAS AT PRESENT A BRITISH PORT OF REGISTRY AND CONSEQUENTLY ITS REGISTER WAS A BRITISH ONE.

+THIS WILL CEASE TO BE THE POSITION ON JULY 1, 1997,+ HE SAID. +STEPS THEREFORE NEED TO BE TAKEN TO ESTABLISH AN AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG REGISTER, SEPARATE FROM THE BRITISH REGISTER, TO BE IN PLACE AND WORKING EFFECTIVELY WELL BEFORE 1997 AND TO BE IN A FORM CAPABLE OF CONTINUING POST 1997 WITH THE MINIMUM OF CHANGE.+

MR HIGGINSON SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGISTER AND THE ENACTMENT OF THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION WOULD LIKELY TAKE ABOUT FIVE YEARS.

IT WAS ENVISAGED, HE SAID, THAT THE PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF THE REGISTER WOULD INCLUDE:

- * STANDARDS AND OBLIGATIONS SHOULD BE SET OUT IN LOCAL LEGISLATION,
- * IT SHOULD NOT BE, NOR BE REGARDED AS, A FLAG OF CONVENIENCE,
- * IT SHOULD OPERATE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS,
- * IT SHOULD HAVE A DISTINCTIVE FLAG,
- * FULL COSTS SHOULD BE RECOVERED BY FEES OR DUES,
- * IT SHOULD ALLOW SHIPS TO BE REGISTERED AND DEREGISTERED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WITH THE MINIMUM OF +RED TAPE+, AND
- * IT SHOULD BE AS ATTRACTIVE AS POSSIBLE TO SHIPOWNERS WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS LISTED.

/ONE OF

ONE OF THE FIRST STEPS WOULD POSSIBLY BE THE SETTING UP OF A SHIPPING ADVISORY BOARD.

THE MAIN FUNCTION OF THE BOARD WOULD BE TO ADVISE THE ADMINISTRATION ON BROAD POLICY FOR THE PROPER DEVELOPMENT AND GOOD MANAGEMENT OF THE HONG KONG SHIPPING INDUSTRY.

AS MR HIGGINSON EXPLAINED: +ONE OF ITS EARLY TASKS WOULD BE TO ADVISE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AUTONOMOUS REGISTER FOR THE TERRITORY AND TO OVERSEE HONG KONG'S DISENGAGEMENT FROM THE BRITISH REGISTER AND THE CONCOMITANT LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CHANGES THAT WILL BE NECESSARY.+

+THE BOARD WOULD INITIALLY BE NON-STATUTORY. BUT CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO IT BECOMING STATUTORY AFTER IT HAD BEEN IN OPERATION FOR SOME TIME.+

SECTION VIII OF ANNEX 1 TO THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG PROVIDES THAT THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION +SHALL MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S PREVIOUS SYSTEM OF SHIPPING MANAGEMENT AND SHIPPING REGULATION, INCLUDING THE SYSTEM FOR REGULATING CONDITIONS OF SEAMEN.+

IT ALSO PROVIDES THAT THE SAR +SHALL BE AUTHORISED TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A SHIPPING REGISTER AND ISSUE RELATED CERTIFICATES UNDER ITS OWN LEGISLATION.+

AT PRESENT HONG KONG HAS SOME 839 SHIPS AND 6.6 MILLION GROSS TONNAGE REGISTERED.

MR HIGGINSON SAID THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT WAS PUBLISHED TO OBTAIN VIEWS AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EXPERIENCE OF ALL SHIPPING INTERESTS.

+THE DOCUMENT IS ESSENTIALLY A 'SPECIALISED' GREEN PAPER WHICH SETS OUT THE INITIAL THINKING OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE ISSUES WHICH NEED TO BE ADDRESSED,+ HE SAID. +SOME ARE POTENTIALLY CONTROVERSIAL. ISSUES SUCH AS THE FLAG, OWNERSHIP, THE NATIONALITY OF OFFICERS AND SEAMEN, THE LANGUAGE OF EXAMINATION AND COMMAND, AND THE CONCEPT OF AN AUTONOMOUS SHIPPING REGISTER ARE LIKELY TO STIMULATE CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION AND DEBATE.

+IT IS IMPORTANT ALSO THAT IN FORMULATING ANY NEW HONG KONG REGISTER, BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL VIEWS REGARDING THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

+ONCE ALL VIEWS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED, AND SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, A FORMAL POLICY STATEMENT ON THE WAY FORWARD WOULD BE PUBLISHED.+

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR APRIL 1985

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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) ROSE BY 3.9 PER CENT AND THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) BY 4.2 PER CENT BETWEEN APRIL 1984 AND APRIL 1985, ACCORDING TO FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) FOR APRIL 1985 WERE 159.9 AND 160.0 RESPECTIVELY, OR SIX POINTS AND 6.5 POINTS RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THOSE FOR APRIL 1984. COMPARED WITH MARCH 1985 AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, CPI (A) INCREASED BY 0.6 POINT OR 0.4 PER CENT AND CPI(B), BY 0.9 POINT OR 0.6 PER CENT.

THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED APRIL 1985, BOTH AT 156.7, WERE 5.9 PER CENT AND 6.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED APRIL 1984.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED APRIL 1985, BOTH THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.5 PER CENT EACH MONTH.

DURING APRIL, RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, RENTALS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DWELLINGS, AND PRICES OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR WERE HIGHER.

THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1979/80 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY. THE CPI(A) REFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$1 000 AND \$3 499 A MONTH, AND THE CPI(B) TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$3 500 AND \$6 499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME.

THE INDEXES FOR APRIL 1985 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES ARE GIVEN BELOW, TOGETHER WITH THOSE FOR MARCH 1985 AND APRIL 1984.

/(OCTOBER 1979

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(OCTOBER 1979 TO SEPTEMBER 1980 AVERAGE = 100)

SECTION	CPI(A)			CPI(B)		
	APR. 84	MAR. 85	APR. 85	APR. 84	MAR. 85	APR. 85
FOODSTUFFS	155.0	156.8	157.0	155.4	157.6	157.7
HOUSING	143.6	153.4	154.4	143.9	152.9	153.7
FUEL AND LIGHT	148.8	146.8	146.8	148.5	146.7	146.7
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	208.0	231.0	231.6	200.6	221.4	222.1
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	154.6	164.9	169.4	155.9	166.2	171.9
DURABLE GOODS	125.4	123.9	123.9	129.1	128.5	128.7
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	149.3	150.3	151.6	146.5	146.2	148.6
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	168.5	181.1	181.6	170.5	181.9	182.3
SERVICES	165.8	180.0	180.8	164.3	176.1	176.8
ALL ITEMS	153.9	159.3	159.9	153.5	159.1	160.0

COMPARED WITH MARCH 1985, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS ROSE BY 0.2 POINT IN CPI(A) AND 0.1 POINT IN CPI(B). THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND THE AVERAGE CHARGE FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES WENT UP. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF LIVE POULTRY AND FRESH FRUIT DECREASED. THE EFFECT OF MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS WAS INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY 1.0 POINT IN CPI(A) AND 0.8 POINT IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER RENTS AND RATES FOR SOME PRIVATE DWELLINGS AND FOR SOME HOUSING SOCIETY AND HOUSING AUTHORITY GROUP A ESTATES.

/HIGHER PRICES

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HIGHER PRICES OF CHINESE WINES AND BEER PUSHED UP THE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION) BY 0.6 POINT IN CPI (A) AND 0.7 POINT IN CPI(B).

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR ROSE BY 4.5 POINTS IN CPI(A) AND 5.7 POINTS IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF OUTERCLOTHING.

THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS WENT UP BY 1.3 POINTS IN CPI(A) AND 2.4 POINTS IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES OF JEWELLERY, TOILET REQUISITES AND COSMETICS.

HIGHER TRAIN FARES CAUSED THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES TO RISE BY 0.5 POINT IN CPI(A) AND 0.4 POINT IN CPI(B).

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES ROSE BY 0.8 POINT IN CPI(A) AND 0.7 POINT IN CPI(B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND HAIRDRESSING.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

(FIGURES PRESENTED IN THIS PRESS RELEASE REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TO TWO DECIMAL PLACES.)

DETAILS OF THESE PRICE MOVEMENTS ARE GIVEN IN THE +CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT+ FOR APRIL 1985, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$3 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG, OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, ROOM 1904, 19TH FLOOR, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 317 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG; OR FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, BASKERVILLE HOUSE, DUDELL STREET, HONG KONG, FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NO. 3-7216512.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR APRIL
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THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN APRIL 1985, AT \$9 660 MILLION, DECREASED BY 7.5 PER CENT OR \$788 MILLION COMPARED WITH APRIL 1984, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO GROW RAPIDLY, BY 56 PER CENT OR \$3 409 MILLION TO \$9 499 MILLION, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, AT \$19 159 MILLION, WAS 16 PER CENT OR \$2 621 MILLION HIGHER THAN IN APRIL 1984.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY SEVEN PER CENT OR \$1 269 MILLION OVER APRIL 1984 TO REACH \$19 798 MILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS GREW AT A FASTER RATE THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP, THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS, NARROWED TO THREE PER CENT IN APRIL 1985 FROM 11 PER CENT IN APRIL 1984.

PUTTING THE MONTH'S TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1985 WAS \$73 608 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$38 635 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$34 973 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1984, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY \$11 233 MILLION OR 18 PER CENT, DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY \$72 MILLION OR 0.2 PER CENT, AND RE-EXPORTS BY \$11 161 MILLION OR 47 PER CENT. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY \$6 486 MILLION, OR 10 PER CENT, TO \$73 798 MILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS GREW AT A FASTER RATE THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1985 NARROWED TO 0.3 PER CENT, FROM SEVEN PER CENT FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1984.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AFTER PEAKING IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984, SLOWED DOWN DURING THE REST OF THE YEAR, AND THIS TREND CONTINUED INTO THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1985.

THE SLOWING DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY AND THE STRENGTH OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR BOTH CONTRIBUTED TO THE RELATIVELY POOR PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR. ON THE OTHER HAND, RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO RECORD VERY HIGH GROWTH RATES, ILLUSTRATING HONG KONG'S INCREASING ROLE AS AN ENTREPOT.

/THE FOLLOWING

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR APRIL 1985:-

<u>MERCHANDISE:</u>	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$ 9 660 MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	:	\$ 9 499 MILLION
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$19 159 MILLION
	IMPORTS	:	\$19 798 MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	:	\$ 639 MILLION (IN DEFICIT)

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	<u>FEBRUARY-APRIL 1985</u>	<u>FEBRUARY-APRIL 1984</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	27 470	27 772	- 302	- 1.1
RE-EXPORTS	26 014	17 836	+ 8 178	+45.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	53 484	45 608	+ 7 876	+17.3
IMPORTS	54 679	51 413	+ 3 266	+ 6.4
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 195	- 5 805	+ 4 610	

<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	<u>APRIL 1985</u>	<u>APRIL 1984</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	9 660 (50.4%)	10 448 (63.2%)	- 788	- 7.5
RE-EXPORTS	9 499	6 090	+ 3 409	+56.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	19 159	16 538	+ 2 621	+15.8
IMPORTS	19 798	18 529	+ 1 269	+ 6.8
TRADE BALANCE	- 639	- 1 991	+ 1 352	

/LAST MONTH

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<u>LAST MONTH</u>	APRIL 1985	MARCH 1985	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	9 660 (50.4%)	8 430 (48.1%)	+ 1 230	+14.6
RE-EXPORTS	9 499	9 078	+ 421	+ 4.6
TOTAL EXPORTS	19 159	17 508	+ 1 651	+ 9.4
IMPORTS	19 798	19 915	- 117	- 0.6
TRADE BALANCE	- 639	- 2 407	+ 1 768	

<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE</u>	JANUARY-APRIL 1985	JANUARY-APRIL 1984	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	38 635 (52.5%)	38 563 (61.8%)	+ 72	+ 0.2
RE-EXPORTS	34 973	23 812	+11 161	+46.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	73 608	62 375	+11 233	+18.0
IMPORTS	73 798	67 312	+ 6 486	+ 9.6
TRADE BALANCE	- 190	- 4 937	+ 4 747	

<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	MAY 1984 TO APRIL 1985	MAY 1983 TO APRIL 1984	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	138 009	116 727	+21 282	+18.2
RE-EXPORTS	94 665	64 784	+29 881	+46.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	232 674	181 511	+51 163	+28.2
IMPORTS	229 856	195 086	+34 770	+17.3
TRADE BALANCE	+ 2 818	- 13 575	+16 393	

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BILL TO IMPROVE COMPENSATION SYSTEM

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THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 WHICH SEEKS TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM FOR THE RECOVERY OF COMPENSATION BY EMPLOYEES, WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

UNDER THE SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM INTRODUCED IN 1982, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR WAS GIVEN THE POWER TO ASSESS THE COMPENSATION PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF AN INJURY TO AN EMPLOYEE WHICH RESULTED IN TEMPORARY INCAPACITY FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING 14 DAYS.

THE COMMISSIONER COULD ISSUE A CERTIFICATE REQUIRING PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION BY THE EMPLOYER WITHIN 21 DAYS, EXCEPT WHERE AN APPEAL HAD BEEN LODGED AGAINST THE ASSESSMENT.

THIS SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM OBIATED DELAYS IN PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION DUE TO DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE AS TO THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION PAYABLE, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE SYSTEM HAD BEEN WIDELY WELCOMED BY BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL, HE ADDED, WAS TO EXTEND THIS SYSTEM TO COVER ALL CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION FOR INJURIES WHICH RESULTED IN TEMPORARY INCAPACITY.

INJURIES CAUSING PERMANENT INCAPACITY WOULD, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE TWO-TIER COMPENSATION BOARD SYSTEM, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

OTHER MAJOR AMENDMENTS IN THE BILL ARE TO EMPOWER THE ORDINARY AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BOARDS TO REVIEW ASSESSMENTS OF COMPENSATION ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE, AND ALSO TO ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO APPLY TO THE BOARDS FOR A REVIEW OF AN ASSESSMENT.

AT PRESENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THE BOARDS' DECISIONS COULD ONLY BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL BY EITHER THE INJURED EMPLOYEE OR HIS EMPLOYER.

OTHER AMENDMENTS CONTAINED IN THE BILL INCLUDED THE PROVISIONS TO ENABLE THE ASSESSMENT BOARDS TO CERTIFY ANY PERIOD OF ABSENCE FROM DUTY BY AN INJURED EMPLOYEE AS PERIODS OF TEMPORARY INCAPACITY FOR COMPENSATION PURPOSES; AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER AS A MEMBER OF AN ORDINARY ASSESSMENT BOARD IN PLACE OF A LABOUR OFFICER.

THE BILL IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR FIRST READING AND COMMENCEMENT OF SECOND READING ON MAY 29.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE BILL MAY BE SENT TO UMELCO AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, OR TO THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, AT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD.

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GOVERNOR ATTENDS VOLUNTEERS DINNER
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING ATTENDED THE 131ST FOUNDATION DAY DINNER OF THE HONG KONG VOLUNTEERS AT THE HILTON HOTEL.

THE DINNER WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE.

SIR EDWARD WAS GREETED ON ARRIVAL BY COL. JOHN HEYWOOD, THE HONORARY COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT, AND WING COMMANDER ALISTAIR ASPREY, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE AUXILIARY AIR FORCE.

HE ALSO MET SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT AND THE AUXILIARY AIR FORCE FOR DRINKS BEFORE DINNER.

AFTER THE LOYAL TOAST, SIR EDWARD JOINED THE VOLUNTEERS IN A TOAST TO +THE NINETY-NINE+ IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 99 FOUNDING MEMBERS.

THE HONG KONG VOLUNTEERS WAS FORMED IN MAY 1854 TO PROTECT HONG KONG WHEN THE BRITISH GARRISON WAS WITHDRAWN FOR THE CRIMEAN WAR.

ITS TITLE AND CONSTITUTION HAD CHANGED SEVERAL TIMES SINCE THEN.

IN 1970, ITS TWO REMAINING CONSTITUENT UNITS, THE HONG KONG REGIMENT AND THE HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, WERE ESTABLISHED AS SEPARATE LEGAL ENTITIES, EACH WITH ITS OWN ORDINANCE.

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COMING BACK FROM CHINA VISIT
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY-DESIGNATE, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WILL BE RETURNING TO HONG KONG BY TRAIN TOMORROW (SATURDAY) MORNING AFTER A TWO-WEEK VISIT TO CHINA.

ON ARRIVAL, MR AKERS-JONES WILL MEET THE PRESS BRIEFLY IN THE VIP ROOM IN KCR'S KOWLOON STATION IN HUNG HOM.

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GURKHA COMMANDER SEES CORRECTIONAL WORK
* * *

THE COMMANDER GURKHA FIELD FORCE, BRIGADIER PETER DUFFELL, TODAY (FRIDAY) VISITED FOUR INSTITUTIONS RUN BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO HAVE A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT THE DAILY LIVES OF PRISONERS, DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE INMATES AND CLOSED CENTRE REFUGEES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, THE COMMANDER FIRST WENT TO THE MAXIMUM SECURITY STANLEY PRISON, WHICH NOW HOLDS OVER 1 400 ADULTS. HE TOURED THE VARIOUS FACILITIES AND SAW PRISONERS AT WORK IN FULL INDUSTRIAL SETTINGS.

HE THEN FLEW BY HELICOPTER TO HEI LING CHAU, TO SEE THE HEI LING CHAU CLOSED CENTRE FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, THE LAI SUN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR YOUNG PRISONERS AND THE HEI LING CHAU DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE.

DURING THE TOUR, BRIGADIER DUFFELL WAS BRIEFED ON THE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF INMATES.

HE LEARNED THAT YOUNG PRISONERS UNDERGO A PROGRAMME OF HALF-DAY EDUCATION AND HALF-DAY VOCATIONAL TRAINING, DRUG DEPENDENTS RECEIVE WORK THERAPY AND COUNSELLING, AND THAT REFUGEES CAN MOVE VERY FREELY WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE CENTRE.

AFTER THE VISIT, HE SAID HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE WAY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS WERE RUN IN HONG KONG. HE NOTED THE GOOD ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT, HIGH MORALE AMONG THE STAFF AND GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STAFF AND THE PRISONERS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT GAVE MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE PRISONERS, WITH HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

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DB MEMBERS TO DISCUSS ERP
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VIEWS ON THE ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING SYSTEM WILL BE SOUGHT FROM THE 19 DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE FINAL ROUND OF CONSULTATION DURING THE NEXT THREE WEEKS.

BEGINNING ON TUESDAY (MAY 28) IN WAN CHAI, BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING PILOT SCHEME RESULTS BRIEF AND CONSULTATION DOCUMENT AT SPECIALLY ARRANGED OR REGULAR DB MEETINGS.

/REPRESENTATIVES OF

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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TRANSPORT BRANCH AND THE CONSULTANTS FIRM WHICH PREPARED THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT WILL BE PRESENT AT THE MEETINGS TO EXPLAIN THE ERP SYSTEM AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

APART FROM WAN CHAI, THREE OTHER DISTRICT BOARDS IN NORTH, YAU MA TEI, AND KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI WILL ALSO BE CONSULTED ON THE SYSTEM NEXT WEEK.

IN WAN CHAI, BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PRIORITIES OF URBAN COUNCIL PROJECTS, THE DRAFT MID-LEVELS EAST OUTLINE ZONING PLAN, AND LAND USE ZONING PROPOSALS.

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VALUE OF CAREERS EDUCATION STRESSED

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CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE ARE INTENDED TO HELP STUDENTS MAKE INFORMED CHOICES ABOUT THEIR FUTURE IN RELATION TO BOTH WORK AND ANY NECESSARY CONTINUING STUDIES, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (FURTHER), MR BRIAN FRENCH, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

ADDRESSING THE OPENING OF THE CAREERS MASTERS SEMINAR AT THE HANG SENG BANK AUDITORIUM, MR FRENCH SAID THE CAREERS EDUCATION TASK WAS AIMED AT PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH KNOWLEDGE ABOUT JOBS AND TYPES OF QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED, ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND TO EQUIP THEM WITH THE SKILLS OF SELECTION AND SELF-KNOWLEDGE.

+THE GUIDANCE TASK AIMS TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS THAT HELPS STUDENTS EXPLORE IN ADVANCE THE POSSIBLE RANGES, AVENUES AND RESULTS OF CHOICE AND THUS TO MAKE WISE AND WELL-INFORMED DECISIONS.

+BOTH CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE OVERLAP AND TOGETHER THEY DEFINE AN AREA IN WHICH CAREERS TEACHERS SEEK TO ENABLE YOUNG PEOPLE TO REALISTICALLY RELATE AMBITION AND PERSONAL PERFORMANCE TO JOB OPPORTUNITIES,+ MR FRENCH SAID.

IN THIS FAST CHANGING SOCIETY, MR FRENCH SAID, CAREERS TEACHERS HAD TO BE FULLY AWARE OF THE CHANGES TAKING PLACE AND THE IMPACT OF SUCH UPON THEIR STUDENTS.

+TO ASSIST THEM IN THIS TASK IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT THEY MAKE FULL USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN THEIR WORK.

/+IF THEY

+IF THEY ARE BOTH FULLY AWARE AND EQUIPPED, THEY CAN ENSURE THAT THEIR STUDENTS HAVE READY ACCESS TO UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON JOBS AND RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED.

+THEY CAN ALSO ENSURE THAT THEIR CAREERS EDUCATION PROGRAMMES WILL IMPROVE DECISION MAKING AND FOSTER PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING OF THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE PROMOTION OF CAREERS EDUCATION, MR FRENCH SAID A WELL-EQUIPPED CAREERS EDUCATION CENTRE HAD BEEN SET UP AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, WHILE CAREERS RESOURCE MATERIALS HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS.

COMPUTERS WERE ALSO BEING USED IN CAREERS EDUCATION TO FACILITATE DATA COLLECTION AND INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION.

HE SAID THAT TWO DISKETTES ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER STUDIES IN HONG KONG WOULD SOON BE AVAILABLE TO ALL CAREERS TEACHERS.

HE THANKED THE HANG SENG BANK AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT TO CAREERS EDUCATION WORK, INCLUDING THE ANNUAL SEMINAR WHICH HAS BEEN HELD FOR THE LAST 15 YEARS.

SOME 260 PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS FROM VARIOUS SCHOOLS ATTENDED THE SEMINAR.

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DTC REGISTRATION SUSPENDED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS TODAY (FRIDAY) SUSPENDED THE REGISTRATION OF ASIAVEST LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY, ON THE GROUND THAT THE BUSINESS OF THE COMPANY IS BEING CARRIED ON IN A MANNER DETRIMENTAL TO THE INTERESTS OF ITS DEPOSITORS.

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FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1985

- 14 -

EXTRA LANE FOR PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER
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PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER IS TO BE WIDENED FROM THREE LANES TO FOUR LANES TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN BOTH DIRECTIONS.

GROUND LEVEL ROADS, INCLUDING PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, ARGYLE STREET AND WATERLOO ROAD, WILL ALSO BE WIDENED AND REALIGNED IN THE VICINITY OF THE FLYOVER.

ON COMPLETION, TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT THE EXISTING SIGNAL-CONTROLLED JUNCTION OF ARGYLE STREET/WATERLOO ROAD/PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD WILL BE RELIEVED AND ADEQUATE CAPACITY WILL BE PROVIDED FOR FUTURE TRAFFIC GROWTH.

WORK ON WIDENING THE FLYOVER WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN STAGES AND TWO LANES SOUTH-BOUND WILL BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

A COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC DIVERSION SCHEME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED TO REDUCE CONGESTION DURING CONSTRUCTION.

THE PLAN AND SCHEME MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG; AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND AT THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, 141-143 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, FIRST FLOOR, KOWLOON.

OBJECTIONS TO THE WORKS MUST BE SENT IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS NOT LATER THAN JULY 23.

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CANTON ROAD LANE BEING WIDENED
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A REAR LANE AT CANTON ROAD WILL BE WIDENED TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN FLOW.

THE WORKS WILL INCLUDE THE WIDENING OF THE EXISTING LANE, AT THE REAR OF NO. 2 TO 16 CANTON ROAD, TO SIX METRES AND THE FORMATION OF A RIGHT-ANGLE TURN ONTO CANTON ROAD.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY; AT THE KOWLOON WEST DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND AT THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE, 490 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL MUST BE SENT IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS NOT LATER THAN JULY 23.

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FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1985

- 15 -

GRAND PROCESSION ON CHEUNG CHAU
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THOUSANDS OF LOCAL SIGHTSEERS AND TOURISTS WILL FLOCK TO CHEUNG CHAU FOR THE TRADITIONAL PROCESSION OF THE ANNUAL BUN FESTIVAL ON MONDAY (MAY 27) AFTERNOON.

MORE THAN 1 000 PEOPLE FROM 15 ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS AND SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS WILL TAKE PART IN THE GRAND PROCESSION WHICH WILL FEATURE A PARADE OF SHRINES FROM THE ISLAND'S TEMPLES, THE TREASURE SWORD OF PAK TAI, FLOATS, UNICORNS AND LION DANCES, GONG AND DRUM PERFORMANCES AND TRADITIONAL CHINESE MUSIC AND DANCES.

THE HOUR-LONG PROCESSION, BEGINNING AT 2 PM, WILL START FROM PAK TAI TEMPLE PASSING THROUGH PRAYA STREET TO THE GUEST STAND BEFORE RETURNING TO THE TEMPLE VIA OTHER MAIN STREETS ON THE ISLAND.

THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, WILL PRESENT PENNANTS TO THE MARSHALS OF PARADE TEAMS.

THREE 12-METRE TALL BUN TOWERS HAVE BEEN BUILT AT THE PAK TAI SQUARE WITH \$55 000 CONTRIBUTED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD.

AS IN THE PREVIOUS YEARS, THERE WILL BE NO SCRAMBLE FOR BUNS WHICH, ACCORDING TO LEGEND, WILL BRING GOOD LUCK TO RECIPIENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. INSTEAD, THE BUNS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PEOPLE ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, TUESDAY, AT 9 AM.

THE BUN FESTIVAL IS CELEBRATED TO PLACATE THE SPIRITS OF PEOPLE KILLED BY PIRATES IN THE PAST CENTURIES.

AS A TOKEN OF SINCERITY AND SOLEMNITY, THE ISLANDERS WILL ABSTAIN FROM EATING FISH AND MEAT FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS STARTING TOMORROW (SATURDAY), AND THERE WILL ALSO BE NO SLAUGHTERING OF ANIMALS DURING THE PERIOD.

OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE CANTONESE OPERA PERFORMANCES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK-LONG FESTIVAL.

ON SUNDAY (MAY 26), THE DAY BEFORE THE GRAND PROCESSION, THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP, WILL OFFICIATE AT AN EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY AT PAK TAI SQUARE, AT 3 PM, BRINGING TO LIFE LIONS AND UNICORNS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROCESSION.

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FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1985

- 16 -

PLAYGROUND TEMPORARILY CLOSED

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THE LOWER NGAU TAU KOK ESTATE PLAYGROUND NO 8 HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR MAJOR RENOVATION WORK INCLUDING THE RE-SURFACING OF THE SKATING RINK.

THE PLAYGROUND, WHICH ALSO HAD A HARD-SURFACED MINI-SOCCER PITCH, HAS BEEN IN USE SINCE 1970.

MEANWHILE, THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPAIR TWO DEFECTIVE FLUSHING MAINS UNDERNEATH THE SOCCER PITCH.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE PLAYGROUND WILL BE REOPENED FOR PUBLIC USE IN MID-AUGUST.

DURING THE CLOSURE PERIOD, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED TO USE THE FUK WAH TSUEN PLAYGROUND NEARBY.

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TRAFFIC CHANGE FOR FESTIVAL

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SHAU KEI WAN MAIN STREET EAST, BETWEEN KAM WA STREET AND A KUNG NGAM ROAD, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON MONDAY (MAY 27) TO ALLOW WORSHIPPERS TO CELEBRATE TAM KUNG FESTIVAL.

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FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1985

- 17 -

NEW ROADS FOR MA ON SHAN

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SEVERAL NEW ROADS ARE PLANNED FOR MA ON SHAN, TO PROVIDE VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AREA.

THE WORKS INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ACCESS ROADS, FOOTPATHS AND CYCLETRACKS, ABOUT 400 METRES TO ONE KILOMETRE TO THE SOUTH OF WU KAI SHA CAMPING AREA.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, THE SHA TIN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES AND THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, 6TH FLOOR, K.C.R. HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL MUST BE SENT IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS NOT LATER THAN JULY 23.

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BIG-HEADED TURTLE SOUGHT

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED THE TWO CHINESE MEN WHO WERE REPORTED TO HAVE CAUGHT A BIG-HEADED TURTLE ON TAI MO SHAN TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT'S FAUNA CONSERVATION SECTION AT 3-688111 EXT. 201 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE DEPARTMENT WAS INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT THE CAPTURED REPTILE, A SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT ALL LOCAL WILD ANIMALS, INCLUDING THE BIG-HEADED TURTLE, WERE PROTECTED UNDER THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION ORDINANCE.

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