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GOVERNOR TO VISIT MACAU

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE WILL VISIT MACAU ON MARCH 15 AT THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNOR OF MACAU. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SIR S.Y. CHUNG, THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR ROBIN MCLAREN AND THE AIDE-DE-CAMP.

DURING THE VISIT WHICH WILL BE INFORMAL, SIR MURRAY WILL HAVE LUNCH WITH REAR-ADMIRAL ALMEIDA E COSTA. HE WILL ALSO SEE SOMETHING OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TERRITORY AND WILL BE BRIEFED ABOUT FUTURE PLANS.

THE GOVERNOR LAST VISITED MACAU IN DECEMBER 1973.

+HE IS PLEASED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAY A FURTHER VISIT BEFORE HE LEAVES HONG KONG FINALLY,+ A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE GOVERNOR WILL RETURN ON THE SAME DAY.

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NINE QUESTIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ASKED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING BY THE HON FRANCIS TIEN TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) WHETHER IT WILL MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE PROGRESS OF FORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EEC REGARDING FRENCH RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG.

ANOTHER INDUSTRIALIST, THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG WILL ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON EFFORTS BEING MADE IN PROMOTING HONG KONG AS A BASE FOR NEW MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE STRATEGY FOR DIVERSIFICATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL BASE.

THESE WILL BE AMONG NINE QUESTIONS DEALING WITH VARIOUS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS TO BE ASKED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

OTHER QUESTIONS WILL INCLUDE THOSE CONCERNING +SEX ESTABLISHMENTS DISGUISED AS CHINESE-STYLE NIGHTCLUBS,+ EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND PERSONS UNDER 15 IN LIQUOR LICENSED PREMISES AND TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR SEVERELY-HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

SEVEN BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READING.

THEY ARE: BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982- DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982- ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982- POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982- APPRENTICESHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982- LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982- AND HOUSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982.

DEBATE WILL RESUME ON THREE OTHER BILLS. THEY ARE: INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL BILL 1982 AND HEUNG YEE KUK (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982.

THE FOLLOWING UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' BILL WILL BE READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME, WITH DEBATE TO BE ADJOURNED: THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY (TRANSFER OF INCORPORATION) BILL 1982.

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PROPOSALS FOR MORE SOCIAL WORKERS

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A GOVERNMENT WORKING PARTY WITH UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS HAS MADE A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF SOCIAL WORKERS.

THE WORKING PARTY ON SOCIAL WELFARE MANPOWER WAS APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR TO SEEK BETTER USE OF TRAINED MANPOWER AND TO RECOMMEND WAYS TO MEET EXISTING AND FUTURE SHORTFALLS.

ACCORDING TO MANPOWER PROJECTIONS, THE ACCUMULATED SHORTFALL IF UNREMEDIED WOULD REACH 460 GRADUATE AND 265 NON-GRADUATE SOCIAL WORKERS BY 1982-83, AND WOULD INCREASE TO 930 AND 1 060 WORKERS RESPECTIVELY BY 1989-90.

IN ITS REPORT, THE WORKING PARTY RECOGNISED THAT THERE WAS NO QUICK OR EASY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM: +THE EXPANSION OF DEMAND FOR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES HAS ARISEN ON THE ONE HAND FROM THE VERY RAPID INCREASE IN POPULATION WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN HONG KONG IN RECENT YEARS, AND ON THE OTHER FROM EFFORTS TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARDS OF SERVICE. THIS HAS INEVITABLY PRODUCED A SITUATION, WHICH IS NOT UNCOMMON IN CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL FIELDS, WHERE THE DEMAND FOR TRAINED MANPOWER GREATLY EXCEEDS THE SUPPLY.+

THE WORKING PARTY BELIEVES THAT THE MEASURES IT IS NOW RECOMMENDING ARE JUSTIFIED AND SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE:

* INCREASED STUDENT INTAKE: THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALLOCATE SPECIAL EARMARKED GRANTS TO THE TWO UNIVERSITIES, THE POLYTECHNIC, BAPTIST COLLEGE AND SHUE YAN COLLEGE TO INCREASE THEIR SOCIAL WORK STUDENT INTAKE=

* OPTIMUM USE OF PERSONNEL: JOBS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE AND THOSE THAT CAN BE FILLED BY PERSONS QUALIFIED IN RELATED DISCIPLINES SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED AND FILLED ACCORDINGLY=

* RECRUITMENT FROM OVERSEAS: CANTONESE-SPEAKING SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS OVERSEAS SHOULD BE ATTRACTED TO WORK IN HONG KONG AND GREATER USE MADE OF NON-CANTONESE SPEAKING PROFESSIONALS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS. THERE SHOULD ALSO BE IMPROVED ARRANGEMENTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF TO RECEIVE OVERSEAS TRAINING=

* REDUCED OR PHASED EXPANSION OF SERVICES: IN IMPLEMENTING PLANNED SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES, A MORE REALISTIC VIEW SHOULD BE TAKEN OF STAFF AVAILABILITY AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO RETAINING PRESENT STAFFING STANDARDS WHILE THE SHORTFALL EXISTS=

/* RELAXED .....

* RELAXED RECRUITMENT CRITERIA: AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE, GRADUATES WITH A GENERAL DEGREE SHOULD BE RECRUITED AS SOCIAL WORKERS PROVIDING THEY RECEIVE IN-SERVICE TRAINING LEADING TO A PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION=

* REDUCED WASTAGE RATE: THE WORKING CONDITIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, INCLUDING SALARIES, CAREER PROSPECTS, IN-SERVICE TRAINING AND JOB MOTIVATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS SHOULD BE REVIEWED.

IN VIEW OF THE URGENT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINED MANPOWER, THE WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDED IMMEDIATE CONSULTATION WITH THE TRAINING INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG SO THAT THE ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES REQUIRED COULD BE PROVIDED FOR 1982/83.

THE WORKING PARTY'S REPORT, WHICH EXPLAINS THE REASONS BEHIND THE RECOMMENDATIONS, IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. COPIES IN ENGLISH, AND A CHINESE TRANSLATION OF THE SUMMARY CHAPTER, MAY BE OBTAINED BY WRITING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE WORKING PARTY AT THE SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD. A FULL CHINESE TRANSLATION WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER.

COMMENTS ON THE REPORT ARE INVITED AND SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES BY APRIL 15.

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FIRST 'CIVIC WEEK' FOR WONG TAI SIN

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THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD, IN CONJUNCTION WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, HAS ORGANISED A WEEK OF ACTIVITIES FROM FEBRUARY 14 TO 21 TO INFORM PEOPLE WHO LIVE OR WORK IN THE DISTRICT OF PUBLIC SERVICES WHICH NOW EXIST OR ARE BEING PLANNED TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF THEIR LIVES.

THE MAIN FEATURE OF THE WEEK WILL BE AN EXHIBITION WHICH WILL DEPICT 100 YEARS OF LIFE IN WONG TAI SIN FROM 1890 TO 1990.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE A SCHOOL DEBATE COMPETITION, A DRAWING COMPETITION FOR YOUNGER RESIDENTS, OUTDOOR FILM SHOWS AND INDOOR VIDEO-CASSETTE DEMONSTRATIONS, AN URBAN COUNCIL-SPONSORED VARIETY SHOW AND A CARNIVAL.

THE WEEK'S ACTIVITIES WILL COST IN EXCESS OF $100 000, ABOUT 50 PER CENT BEING PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A PRESS CONFERENCE TO PUBLICISE THE WONG TAI SIN CIVIC WEEK TO BE HELD AT 2.15 PM ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, AT THE WONG TAI SIN CITY DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 4TH FLOOR. DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND THE AREA'S CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER WILL BE PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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BREAKDOWN FIGURES FOR HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN 1981

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN 1981, VALUED AT $260 537 MILLION, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 24 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH 1980. DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 18 PER CENT TO $80 423 MILLION, IMPORTS BY 24 PER CENT TO $138 375 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS BY 39 PER CENT TO $41 739 MILLION. DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 24 PER CENT.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT RELEASED TODAY THE RELEVANT DETAILED TRADE STATISTICS.

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS WERE AS FOLLOWS:-

	1981 (HK$ MN.)	1980 (HK$ MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
U.S.A.	29 200	22 591	+6 609	+29
U.K.	7 710	6 791	+ 919	+14
F.R. OF GERMANY	7 048	7 384	- 336	- 5
JAPAN	2 940	2 329	+ 611	+26
CHINA	2 924	1 605	+1 319	+82
AUSTRALIA	2 710	1 941	+ 769	+40
CANADA	2 355	1 782	+ 573	+32
SINGAPORE	1 732	1 791	- 59	- 3
NETHERLANDS	1 598	1 575	+ 23	+ 1
FRANCE	1 483	1 407	+ 76	+ 5

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE U.S. CONTINUED TO GROW.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY $2 874 MILLION OR 36 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY $917 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT), PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (BY $706 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT) AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND PARTS FOR COMPUTERS (BY $687 MILLION OR 53 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TRANSISTORS AND DIODES, AS WELL AS OFFICE MACHINES, DECLINED (BY $56 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT, AND $77 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY).

/INCREASES WERE .....

INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF CLOTHING (BY $386 MILLION OR 12 PER CENT), PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (BY $225 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT), AS WELL AS ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY $150 MILLION OR 46 PER CENT). DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS DECLINED BY $91 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT.

MOST COMMODITIES EXPORTED TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY DECREASED IN VALUE, INCLUDING WATCHES AND CLOCKS (DECLINED BY $102 MILLION OR 16 PER CENT) AS WELL AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (DECLINED BY $129 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT).

THE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES INCREASED STEADILY (BY $33 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT).

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING TO JAPAN (BY $419 MILLION OR 58 PER CENT), AND IN THE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $295 MILLION OR 134 PER CENT) AND TEXTILES (BY $246 MILLION OR 64 PER CENT) TO CHINA.

AN ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION IS PRESENTED BELOW:-

	1981 (HK$ MN.)	1980 (HK$ MN.)	INCREASE (HK$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	28 288	23 258	+5 030	+22
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS)	13 235	11 020	+2 215	+20
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	8 101	7 119	+ 982	+14
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY TRANSISTORS AND DIODES AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE APPLIANCES)	5 812	4 490	+1 322	+29

/TELECOMMUNICATIONS .....

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	5 618	5 030	+ 588	+12
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	5 302	4 535	+ 767	+17

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM THE TEN MAJOR SOURCES ARE SUMMARISED AS FOLLOWS:-

	1981 (HK$ MN.)	1980 (HK$ MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
JAPAN	32 130	25 644	+6 486	+25
CHINA	29 510	21 948	+7 562	+34
U.S.A.	14 442	13 210	+1 232	+ 9
TAIWAN	10 762	7 961	+2 801	+35
SINGAPORE	10 627	7 384	+3 243	+44
U.K.	6 283	5 456	+ 827	+15
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	5 495	3 869	+1 626	+42
F.R. OF GERMANY	3 383	2 883	+ 500	+17
SWITZERLAND	2 848	2 897	- 49	- 2
AUSTRALIA	2 005	1 698	+ 307	+18

LOCAL DEMAND FOR JAPANESE GOODS REMAINED STRONG.

INCREASES WERE NOTED PARTICULARLY FOR ROAD VEHICLES (BY $918 MILLION OR 40 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY $870 MILLION OR 38 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY $797 MILLION OR 33 PER CENT), TEXTILES (BY $617 MILLION OR 17 PER CENT), AS WELL AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $586 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT).

AS FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA, INCREASES WERE RECORDED MAINLY IN TEXTILES (BY $1 703 MILLION OR 41 PER CENT), CLOTHING (BY $1 419 MILLION OR 62 PER CENT), VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY $557 MILLION OR 52 PER CENT), MANUFACTURES OF METAL (BY $320 MILLION OR 68 PER CENT) AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD (BY $304 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT).

INCREASES IN IMPORTS FROM THE U.S. WERE LARGELY OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY $420 MILLION OR 40 PER CENT), VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY $217 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT), AS WELL AS TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES (BY $157 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT).

/ON THE OTHER .....

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE IMPORTS OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN ROAD VEHICLES (BY $349 MILLION OR 38 PER CENT) AND TEXTILE FIBRES AND WASTES (BY $379 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT).

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORTS OF TEXTILES FROM TAIWAN (BY $1 101 MILLION OR 37 PER CENT), AND OF PETROLEUM AND RELATED PRODUCTS FROM SINGAPORE (BY $2 433 MILLION OR 50 PER CENT).

THE FOLLOWING TABLE ILLUSTRATES THE MORE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY COMMODITY SECTION:-

	1981 (HK$ MN.)	1980 (HK$ MN.)	INCREASE (HK$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE PRODUCTS, DIAMONDS, IRON AND STEEL, AND PAPER)	40 149	33 720	+6 429	+19
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	32 298	25 133	+7 165	+29
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS, ARTICLES OF APPAREL)	23 179	17 628	+5 551	+31
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD	13 993	11 558	+2 435	+21
MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS	10 966	7 882	+3 084	+39
CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS	9 059	7 934	+1 125	+14

SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA (BY $3 402 MILLION OR 73 PER CENT), U.S.A. (BY $1 700 MILLION OR 55 PER CENT), INDONESIA (BY $1 511 MILLION OR 55 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (BY $733 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT), JAPAN (BY $590 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT), REPUBLIC OF KOREA (BY $502 MILLION OR 56 PER CENT), MACAU (BY $484 MILLION OR 52 PER CENT), PHILIPPINES (BY $390 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT), SAUDI ARABIA (BY $238 MILLION OR 69 PER CENT), AND NIGERIA (BY $230 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT).

/ON THE OTHER .....

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECLINES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG (BY $72 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT) AND SWITZERLAND (BY $185 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT).

MOST COMMODITIES RE-EXPORTED THROUGH HONG KONG EXHIBITED STRONG GROWTH, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING TEXTILES (BY $2 671 MILLION OR 62 PER CENT), ROAD VEHICLES (BY $1 122 MILLION OR 92 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY $1 106 MILLION OR 56 PER CENT), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $841 MILLION OR 66 PER CENT), AND CLOTHING (BY $642 MILLION OR 41 PER CENT).

THE DECEMBER 1981 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS - SUMMARY+, BEING A SUMMARY REPORT ON HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN DECEMBER 1981, WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK$3 PER COPY.

A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, +HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE+, WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE MONTH'S IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS, WILL BE PUBLISHED IN EARLY MARCH AND WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK$10 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT BASKERVILLE HOUSE, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. : 5-214375).

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$79-MILLION ROAD CONTRACT SIGNED

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THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) AWARDED A $79-MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ANOTHER SECTION OF TRUNK ROAD FROM YUEN CHAU KOK TO THE NORTHEAST OF WO CHE ESTATE IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY MR BOSCO KEOWN, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AND MR D.A. MORRIS OF GAMMON (HONG KONG) LIMITED.

MR KEOWN SAID THE NEW TRUNK ROAD, FORMING PART OF A MAJOR HIGHWAY NETWORK WITHIN SHA TIN NEW TOWN, WOULD HELP EASE THE HEAVY TRAFFIC GENERATED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN.

+IT WILL EVENTUALLY CONNECT WITH THE SHA TIN-TAI PO COASTAL ROAD AND FORM PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROUTE, PROVIDING A MAIN ROAD LINK BETWEEN KOWLOON AND THE EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE SAID.

WORK ON THE CONTRACT INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MAJOR CROSSING OVER THE SHING MUN RIVER, ONE KILOMETRE OF DUAL THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY SOUTH OF THE RIVER CROSSING, TWO SUBWAYS, A FOOTPATH/CYCLETRACK SYSTEM ALONGSIDE THE TRUNK ROAD AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 26 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY REPORT

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) RELEASED THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY CONDUCTED IN JANUARY 1982.

ABOUT 800 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1981, AND THEIR BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1982.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY INDICATE THAT OVERALL BUSINESS PERFORMANCE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1981 SHOWED SOME IMPROVEMENT OVER THAT IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

IMPROVEMENTS WERE MORE MARKED FOR THE 'CONSTRUCTION', 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS' AND THE 'OTHER SERVICES' SECTORS.

FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AS A WHOLE, BUSINESS PERFORMANCE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER WAS SUSTAINED AT A LEVEL LARGELY COMPARABLE TO THAT OF THE THIRD QUARTER.

VIEWS ON THE GENERAL BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1982 ARE QUITE VARIED AMONG FIRMS.

TAKEN SECTORALLY, FIRMS IN THE 'MANUFACTURING' AND 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS' SECTORS EXPECT DETERIORATIONS AS AGAINST THE FOURTH QUARTER POSITION WHILE THOSE IN THE 'CONSTRUCTION' AND 'OTHER SERVICES' SECTORS ANTICIPATE CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT.

WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, FIRMS IN THE 'WEARING APPAREL' INDUSTRY AND 'MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES' REPORTED SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1981 BUT PREDICT SOME DETERIORATIONS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1982.

'FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO', 'PRINTING' AND 'FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS' INDUSTRIES HAD SIMILAR PERFORMANCE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER AS IN THE THIRD, AND EXPECTED THIS SITUATION TO CONTINUE IN FIRST QUARTER 1982.

FIRMS IN THE 'TEXTILES' AND 'ELECTRONICS' INDUSTRIES, WHICH ALSO REPORTED LITTLE CHANGE IN THEIR BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, PREDICTED UNFAVOURABLE PROSPECTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER. 'ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES' AND 'PLASTICS' INDUSTRIES CONSIDERED THEIR BUSINESS SITUATION TO BE WORSE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER THAN IN THE THIRD, BUT DO NOT EXPECT FURTHER SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION.

FIRMS IN THE 'WATCHES AND CLOCKS' INDUSTRY REPORTED DIVERGENT EXPERIENCE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, WITH A SMALL BALANCE OF OPINION ON THE 'DOWN' SIDE.

AS FOR BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME CONCENSUS THAT PROSPECTS ARE UNFAVOURABLE.

MILD IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS PERFORMANCE WAS REPORTED BY FIRMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR.

/THEY EXPECTED .....

THEY EXPECTED TO HAVE SOME FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1982.

RESPONDENTS IN THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS' AND 'OTHER SERVICES' SECTOR REPORTED IMPROVED BUSINESS PERFORMANCE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER BUT SOME DETERIORATION IS PREDICTED FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1982.

THE MAIN PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1981 WERE HIGH INTEREST RATES, UNCERTAINTIES THROUGH EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS, HIGH STAFF COSTS AND PRICE COMPETITION. HIGH INTEREST RATES WILL REMAIN THE MAJOR PROBLEM IN FIRST QUARTER 1982 BUT PROBABLY WITH LESS SIGNIFICANCE. THE OTHER PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AT THE SAME LEVEL.

HOTELS REPORTED THAT THEY HAD SOME PROBLEMS IN FOURTH QUARTER 1981 BUT MANY MORE ARE EXPECTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER 1982, BASICALLY AS A RESULT OF SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED COMPETITION DUE TO THE OPENING OF A NUMBER OF NEW HOTELS.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT STATED THAT THE SURVEY DATA, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, WAS BASICALLY INTENDED TO PROVIDE ONE SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG.

PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER IN THEIR OPINIONS, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD 'IMPROVED', 'REMAINED THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATED' IN THE IMMEDIATELY PAST QUARTER AS COMPARED WITH THE QUARTER BEFORE.

FOR THE FORTHCOMING QUARTER, THEY INDICATED WHETHER THIS WILL 'IMPROVE', 'REMAIN THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATE'. THE BALANCE OF OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WAS TABULATED AND ANALYSED. SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATIONS WERE MADE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE IN THIS ROUND OF THE SURVEY. ONE OF THE MAJOR CHANGES WAS THAT RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED TO EXCLUDE THE INFLUENCE OF PURELY SEASONAL FACTORS WHEN PROVIDING THEIR VIEWS ON THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION.

A NEW SECTION ON BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS WAS INCLUDED. A BREAKDOWN OF VIEWS OF FIRMS BY SIZE GROUPS WAS INTRODUCED.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, CONSIDERABLE RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN THE INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, CONTAINING AN ANALYSIS AND STATISTICAL TABLES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO FIRMS TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY AND TO OTHER BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS.

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC MAY OBTAIN COPIES FROM GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, AT $3 PER COPY.

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EQUAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED

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THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE (OPERATIONS), MRS EVELYN DOE, TODAY (TUESDAY) APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC, IN PARTICULAR EMPLOYERS, TO SUPPORT THE DISABLED AND PROVIDE THEM WITH EQUAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

SHE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S CHOI WAN SHELTERED WORKSHOP AND HOSTEL.

+FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, THIS IS A LONG-TERM INVESTMENT AND ALSO A SOUND METHOD OF ENRICHING OUR HUMAN RESOURCES,+ SHE SAID.

SINCE THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TOOK OVER FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RUNNING VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES FOR THE DISABLED, THE S.W.D. HAS TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO THE PROVISION OF A WIDER RANGE OF SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED.

+SHELTERED WORKSHOPS ARE NOW REGARDED AS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED,+ SHE STRESSED.

ALTHOUGH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS HAD ENDED, MRS DOE SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE DISABLED WITH MORE AND BETTER SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

BESIDES THE NINE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE SIMILAR SERVICES WITH A VIEW TO ACCOMMODATING MORE SHELTERED WORKERS AND ESTABLISHING WORKSHOPS CLOSE TO THEIR HOMES, SHE SAID.

THE CHOI WAN WORKSHOP CAN ACCOMMODATE UP TO 120 DISABLED PEOPLE WHILE THE HOSTEL HAS PLACES FOR 26.

APART FROM MRS DOE, OTHER GUESTS OFFICIATING TODAY WERE THE WONG TAI SIN CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR IAN STRACHAN, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHOI WAN AREA COMMITTEE AND MEMBER OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD, MR KUT SING-KUNG.

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COMMISSIONER VISITS INJURED OFFICER

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THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, TODAY (TUESDAY) VISITED ASSISTANT OFFICER LAM LING-SANG AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL AND WISHED HIM QUICK RECOVERY.

MR LAM SUFFERED A FRACTURED SKULL AND BROKEN ARM WHEN HE AND ANOTHER ASSISTANT OFFICER TRIED TO INVESTIGATE AN INCIDENT AMONG VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN ARGYLE STREET CAMP THREE AROUND MIDNIGHT LAST FRIDAY.

HE WAS SAID TO BE IN +SATISFACTORY CONDITION+ TODAY.

MR LAM, AGED 26, JOINED THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN 1978. HE IS ONE OF THE 85 OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT SECONDED TO THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TO ASSIST IN ADMINISTERING GOVERNMENT REFUGEE CAMPS.

THE OTHER OFFICER INJURED IN THE SAME INCIDENT, MR SIU PO-KONG, AGED 23, WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL AFTER TREATMENT.

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AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR REGISTRATION NUMBERS ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 13) AT 10 AM IN THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

A TOTAL OF 36 SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

CR 689	CR 320	CR 329	CR 745
CP 8698	CP 1818	CS 500	3328
CR 208	CR 944	CR 966	CR 1031
CP 7932	CR 108	CR 230	CR 885
CS 678	CR 2	HK 6688	780
CR 1913	CR 801	CR 423	CR 1999
CR 228	CR 148	CR 938	CR 260
CC 99	CF 88	AE 3	CR 2866
CP 8066	CR 784	BB 1711	CR 1338

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY IN CASH OR BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

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

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

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 72TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL OPENS ON FRIDAY

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THE SECOND YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL STARTS ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 12) AND WILL LAST 16 DAYS.

THE SECRETARY FOR CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WILL OFFICIATE AT AN OPENING CONCERT BY THE HONG KONG CHINESE ORCHESTRA AT THE LUT SAU HALL.

BESIDES THIS CONCERT, THERE WILL BE A GUITAR CONCERT ON FEBRUARY 13, A HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONCERT ON FEBRUARY 19, A PERFORMANCE BY YUEN LONG CHILDREN'S CHOIR ON FEBRUARY 22 AND AN OPEN AIR CONCERT ON FEBRUARY 27 BY THE HONG KONG YOUTH MUSIC SOCIETY CHINESE ORCHESTRA.

A HIGHLIGHT OF THE 26-EVENT PROGRAMME WILL BE THREE DAYS OF CANTONESE OPERA BY THE CHOR FUNG MING TROUPE STARTING ON FEBRUARY 25.

OTHER EVENTS WILL INCLUDE FOLK DANCING, DRAMA, PUPPET SHOWS, A VARIETY SHOW, JAPANESE FILM APPRECIATION AND A BALLET PERFORMANCE.

A CHINESE CHESS COMPETITION, A SPRING FESTIVAL SCROLL AND FLOWER EXHIBITION, A CHINESE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS EXHIBITION AND TALKS ON PHOTOGRAPHY, LITHOGRAPHY AND CHINESE PAINTING WILL ALSO BE HELD.

MOST OF THE PERFORMANCES WILL BE STAGED AT THE LUT SAU HALL, WHILE EXHIBITIONS WILL BE HELD AT YUEN LONG TOWN HALL. THE COMPETITION AND TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE AT LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

TICKETS AT $3, $5, $10, $15 AND $20 ARE NOW ON SALE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE LUT SAU HALL. FOR THE CANTONESE OPERA TICKETS RANGING IN PRICE FROM $15 TO $40 WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE LUT SAU HALL BOX OFFICES FROM FEBRUARY 15.

ENTRY FOR MOST EVENTS IS FREE.

THE FESTIVAL, SPONSORED BY YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD AT A COST OF $350 000, HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR MA NING-HEI.

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