



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1985

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MINISTER IMPRESSED BY DISTRICT BOARD

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THE VISITING MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR TIMOTHY RENTON, SAID TODAY THAT THE DISTRICT BOARDS WERE A VERY GOOD EXAMPLE OF POLITICS AT THE GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD AND A VISIT OF THE DISTRICT, MR RENTON SAID IT WAS VERY INTERESTING TO HEAR BOARD MEMBERS TALKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE NEW URBAN PLAN THAT WAS BEING PRESENTED TO THEM.

+AND I COULDN'T HELP DRAWING SOME ANALOGIES WITH MY OWN CONSTITUENCY IN SUSSEX WHERE SIMILARLY AT A COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL LEVEL WE ARE DISCUSSING OUR PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIAL GROWTH FLOWING FROM THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF GATWICK AIRPORT.

+SO IT WAS A VERY INTERESTING PARALLEL FOR ME TO HEAR YOUR DISTRICT BOARD IN ACTION AND TO COMPARE THAT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND I HOPE I'VE GOT A FEW LESSONS AND THOUGHTS TO TAKE BACK TO THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH ME,+ MR RENTON SAID.

THE MINISTER SAID HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD. +I WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE WAY THE MEETING WAS ORGANISED - VERY FULL ATTENDANCE, VERY WELL ORGANISED, AND A VERY LONG AGENDA.+

MR RENTON SAID THAT AS A MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG AND AS A POLITICIAN, HIS ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF GOVERNMENT AT DIFFERENT LEVELS WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT.

HE SAID HE WAS AT A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THIS MORNING WHERE THEY HAD A VERY USEFUL AND WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION ABOUT MANY MATTERS.

AND HE WOULD HAVE SEEN HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OPERATING AT ALL LEVELS AFTER HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL/TOMORROW, HE ADDED.

+THAT IS A VERY VALUABLE LESSON FOR ME, A FIRST-HAND LESSON, OF HOW GOVERNMENT AND HOW COMMUNITY POLITICS OPERATE IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER DISTRICT BOARDS SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE POWER, MR RENTON SAID THIS WAS A MATTER FOR HONG KONG TO DECIDE.

+I CAN ONLY SAY THAT THE AGENDA SEEMED TO ME TO BE JUST THE SORT OF AGENDA WE WOULD BE LOOKING AT IN MY CONSTITUENCY AT THAT LEVEL,+ HE ADDED.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF A REPORT MADE IN HONG KONG THAT THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM THE BOWRING REFUGEE CAMP WHICH HE VISITED YESTERDAY, MR RENTON REITERATED THAT HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, LIKE HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, WOULD MUCH RATHER SEE THAT THERE WERE NO CLOSED CENTRES.

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BUT ON THE BASIS OF WHAT HE HAD SEEN YESTERDAY, MR RENTON SAID THAT TO BE REALISTIC, +THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY IN PRESENT CONDITIONS OF THE CLOSED CENTRES IN HONG KONG BEING FINISHED AS A MATTER OF POLICY AT THIS MOMENT.+

+BUT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN HONG KONG, GIVEN THE PRESSURE OF IMMIGRATION INTO HONG KONG, NOT LEAST FROM MAINLAND CHINA, IT MUST BE SAID THAT I DON'T THINK THE CONDITIONS WARRANT THE CLOSING OF THESE CLOSED CENTRES OR A CHANGE OF PHILOSOPHY AT THE PRESENT TIME,+ HE SAID.

AS TO THE REMARKS MADE IN THE REPORT THAT THE CLOSED CENTRE RESEMBLED A PRISON, MR RENTON SAID: +I CAN'T HONESTLY SAY THAT WALKING AROUND THE BOWRING CAMP YESTERDAY IN THE LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE TO ME - I'D LIKE TO SPEND LONGER THERE - BUT WHEN I SAW THE EFFORTS THAT WAS BEING PUT INTO THE PLAY GROUPS, THE CRECHE FOR THE CHILDREN, THE WORKSHOPS, I THINK THAT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT IS BEING PUT INTO MAKING THE LIFE THERE, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION, AS TOLERABLE AS POSSIBLE.

+OF COURSE, AS I SAID AT THE BEGINNING OF MY REMARKS YESTERDAY, ANYONE GOING INTO ANY REFUGEE CAMP IS ALWAYS CONSCIOUS OF THE DISLOCATION OF THE LIVES OF THE INDIVIDUALS,+ HE SAID, +BUT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I THINK THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND THE EDUCATION IN THAT CLOSED CAMP ARE ADMIRABLE AND ARE MAKING LIFE THERE AS TOLERABLE AND AS USEFUL FOR THE FUTURE AS POSSIBLE.+

ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING ANY CHANGES TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM, MR RENTON SAID THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES - THE NUMBER OF REDUCTION IN THE REFUGEES THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE, BOTH BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT INITIATIVE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE SUPPORT THAT WE GET INTERNATIONALLY.

ASKED WHAT ADVICE HE, AS THE NEW MINISTER OF STATE RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG AFFAIRS, WOULD GIVE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, MR RENTON SAID HE WAS NOT +ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN BEING AN EXPERT AFTER 48 HOURS+.

+I THINK THAT THE WAY YOU APPROACH THIS TRANSITIONAL PERIOD IS, ABOVE ALL, A MATTER FOR YOURSELVES, FOR YOUR OWN JUDGEMENT,+ HE SAID. +I LOOK AROUND ME, I MEAN LIKE WHERE WE ARE NOW, ONE LOOKS AROUND AT THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS THAT ARE GOING AHEAD AT THIS PART OF HONG KONG, THE PUBLIC SECTOR BUILDING WE'VE TALKED ABOUT AND THE TUNNEL.

+THESE ARE NOT PROJECTS JUST FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS, ARE THEY? THESE ARE PROJECTS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AHEAD. THEY SHOULD GIVE YOU ALL A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE.+

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BUSY DAY FOR VISITING STATE MINISTER

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THE VISITING MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR TIMOTHY RENTON, CONTINUED HIS BUSY PROGRAMME IN HONG KONG TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE STARTED OFF BY ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, DURING WHICH HE SAW THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND HIS TOP ADVISERS DELIBERATING ON POLICY MATTERS.

BEFORE LEAVING THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, MR RENTON TOLD REPORTERS THAT THEY HAD A MOST INTERESTING DISCUSSION AT EXCO AND HAD TALKED ABOUT A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS OF INTEREST AND CONCERN TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

THE MINISTER THEN WENT TO THE BRITISH TRADE COMMISSION WHERE HE WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE DEPUTY TRADE COMMISSIONER, MR JAMES SMITH-LAITTAN.

THERE MR RENTON WAS BRIEFED BY THE SENIOR BRITISH TRADE COMMISSIONER, MR CHRISTIAN ADAMS, ON BRITAIN'S TRADE WITH HONG KONG AND CHINA.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE VISIT, MR RENTON SAID HONG KONG WAS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT MARKET FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM.

+THERE ARE A GREAT MANY BRITISH TRADE MISSIONS COMING HERE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, AND IT IS VERY USEFUL FOR ME TO BE BROUGHT FULLY UP-TO-DATE ON OUR EXPORT PROSPECTS, AND PARTICULARLY ON THE NEW DEVELOPMENT, OF COURSE, OF EXPORT THROUGH HONG KONG INTO THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF CHINA,+ HE SAID.

ASKED WHETHER HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, THE MINISTER SAID, +WE HAD A VERY WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION ABOUT ALL THE EXPORT CONTRACTS THAT BRITAIN IS INTERESTED IN AT THE MOMENT.+

IN THE AFTERNOON, MR RENTON, ACCOMPANIED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, VISITED KWUN TONG DISTRICT AND ATTENDED A MEETING OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD, AND VISITED THE KWUN TONG ESTATE AT TSUI PING ROAD.

ADDRESSING THE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING, MR RENTON SAID HE WAS VERY HAPPY TO SEE THE DELIBERATIONS OF A DISTRICT BOARD AND THE GOVERNMENT'S WORK AT GRASS-ROOT LEVEL.

REFERRING TO THE MEETING'S FIRST AGENDA ITEM CONCERNING THE KWUN TONG OUTLINE ZONING PLAN, MR RENTON SAID: +THIS IS PARTICULARLY OF INTEREST TO ME BECAUSE IN MY CONSTITUENCY IN THE SOUTHEAST OF ENGLAND, WE HAVE A LOT OF CONCERN ABOUT EXCESSIVE INDUSTRIAL GROWTH.

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+SO I SHOULD BE INTERESTED TOO TO SEE WHETHER YOU HAVE ANY SOLUTIONS FOR ME THAT I MAY BE ABLE TO TAKE BACK TO MY CONSTITUENCY IN SUSSEX TO SEE HOW YOU TACKLE THIS PROBLEM IN A HEAVILY POPULATED AND INDUSTRIALISED ZONE OF HONG KONG.+

LATER, FROM THE ROOFTOP OF A BUILDING AT TSUI PING ROAD ESTATE, MR RENTON HAD A PANORAMIC VIEW OF KWUN TONG AND WAS BRIEFED ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR Y.L. PANG.

MR RENTON WAS TOLD THAT MARK I AND II ESTATES, BUILT BETWEEN 1958 AND 1964, WERE EXTREMELY BASIC AND OVERCROWDED. IN 1970, REDEVELOPMENT WORK STARTED AND 1990 HAD BEEN SET AS THE TARGET FOR THE CLEARANCE OF ALL UNIMPROVED MARK I AND II BLOCKS.

TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS OF REDEVELOPMENT, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT BEGAN THINNING OUT THE POPULATION IN ESTATES BY TRANSFERRING MARK I BLOCK TENANTS TO OTHER NEW ESTATES AND BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO BUY HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS.

HE WAS TOLD THAT AT THE TSUI PING ROAD ESTATE, THIS RESULTED IN A REDUCTION IN THE POPULATION FROM 58 000 IN 1977 TO THE PRESENT 29 000.

LATER, MR RENTON WENT TO THE SAI TSO WAN CONTROLLED TIP, WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED BY A SENIOR ENGINEER OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, MR K.G. FUTCHER, AND KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN MAK, ON THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING PROJECT.

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REMINDER:

FOLLOWING ARE THE PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR COVERING MR RENTON'S ACTIVITIES TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY):

(1) VISIT TO TAI PO

PRESS TRANSPORT WILL LEAVE CGO CARPARK AT 8.30 AM. THOSE TRAVELLING ON THEIR OWN SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE ENTRANCE OF WANG YAN HOUSE, WANG FUK COURT IN TAI PO AT 9.45 AM.

(2) UMELCO DINNER

THERE WILL BE FIXED POSITIONS OUTSIDE THE NEW LEGCO BUILDING FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF MR RENTON'S ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE EVENT SHOULD ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE NEW LEGCO BUILDING AT 8.30 PM.

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TAC TO CONTINUE MONITORING CMB PERFORMANCE
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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE DECIDED TODAY (TUESDAY) TO MONITOR CHINA MOTOR BUS' PERFORMANCE IN IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CMB MAINTENANCE FOR A FURTHER PERIOD UP TO MARCH 1986.

THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN AFTER CONSIDERING THE SIXTH PROGRESS REPORT WHICH REVEALED THAT CMB'S PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP REPORT SO FAR HAS BEEN POSITIVE AND THAT THERE ARE CLEAR SIGNS THAT THE COMPANY IS PUTTING A REAL EFFORT INTO ACHIEVING THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS.

IN MAKING ITS INTERIM ASSESSMENT OF CMB, THE TAC NOTED THAT:

- * SAFETY STANDARDS OF BUSES HAVE BEEN STEADILY RAISED THROUGH AN IMPROVED SERVICING SYSTEM, ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUALITY CONTROL SECTION AND BETTER STAFF SUPERVISION AND TRAINING. THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN SAFETY DEFECTS DURING SPOT CHECKS. IN SEPTEMBER, 44 SPOT CHECKS WERE CARRIED OUT BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S VEHICLE EXAMINERS AND THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF SAFETY DEFECTS PER BUS FOUND WAS 0.5 COMPARED WITH THREE PER BUS IN JANUARY;
- * CMB HAS ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS AT ITS DEPOTS AND HAS PURCHASED MANY NEW ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING GROUP SUCH AS THE CHASSIS CLEANER AND ULTRASONIC FLAW DETECTOR.
- * CONCERTED EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO UPGRADE THE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR ITS WORKFORCE BY EXPANDING ITS TRAINING FACILITIES AND INVITING THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC TO DRAW UP A TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR CMB CRAFTSMEN AND TECHNICIANS;
- * WORKING PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN REVISED AND STREAMLINED TO FACILITATE EARLY DETECTION OF FAULTS ON BUSES AND TO ENSURE THEIR PROPER RECTIFICATION. THESE INCLUDE A NEW PROCEDURE FOR THE PURCHASE OF SPARE PARTS, THE DRAWING UP OF A STANDARD CHECK LIST FOR DRIVERS, A REVISED SYSTEM FOR DAILY MAINTENANCE CHECKS, PROCEDURES FOR TYRE INSPECTION AND BUS CLEANSING, AND AN IMPROVED SERVICING SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT ALL BUSES RECEIVED THEIR MONTHLY SERVICING ON TIME;
- * CMB HAS DRAWN UP A BUS WITHDRAWAL PROGRAMME AS PART OF ITS FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND HAS TAKEN STEPS TO WITHDRAW SOME OF ITS OLD BUSES FROM SERVICE.

THE TAC NOTED THAT THE COMPANY HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO MAKE QUICK AND POSITIVE ADJUSTMENTS TO ITS SERVICES IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE RAPID CHANGES IN TRAVEL PATTERNS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE OPENING OF THE MTR ISLAND LINE.

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AT THE SAME TIME, CMB WAS REQUIRED BY LAW TO PRODUCE ITS FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE FIRST TIME, APART FROM IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP'S REPORT.

THE REPORT GIVES CREDIT TO CMB FOR BEING ABLE TO ACHIEVE THESE WHILE MAINTAINING A SATISFACTORY LEVEL OF SERVICE WITHOUT INCONVENIENCE OR DISRUPTION TO THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC.

ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, THE TAC NOTED THAT PROGRESS ON MATTERS OF A MORE FUNDAMENTAL NATURE INVOLVING ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT WAS SLOW. A NEW ENGINEER MANAGER TO HEAD THE COMPANY'S ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN RECRUITED AND THE REPORT PRODUCED BY THE CONSULTANT ENGAGED TO STUDY THE ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THE EXTENSION OF THE MONITORING PERIOD WOULD ENABLE THE TAC TO STUDY THE ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT'S REPORT COMMISSIONED BY CMB AND ASSESS ITS EFFECT ON THE COMPANY'S ABILITY TO SUSTAIN THE IMPROVEMENTS AS WELL AS GIVING CMB MORE TIME TO COMPLETE ACTION ON THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE STILL OUTSTANDING.

AT THEIR MEETING TODAY, TAC MEMBERS ALSO ENDORSED A PERMIT SYSTEM TO REGULATE THE USE OF +VILLAGE VEHICLES+ IN THE RURAL AREAS.

THESE VEHICLES ARE MOTORISED CARTS WHICH ARE USED TO TRANSPORT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, BUILDING MATERIALS AND OTHER GOODS IN AREAS WHICH ARE INACCESSIBLE OR CLOSED TO ORDINARY VEHICLES. DUE TO THEIR OFTEN UNSAFE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION AS WELL AS THE NOISE THEY EMIT, THEY HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF COMPLAINT BY RESIDENTS FOR SOME TIME.

UNDER THE PROPOSED PERMIT SYSTEM, THE VEHICLES WILL HAVE TO BE BUILT WITHIN CERTAIN SPECIFIED DIMENSIONS, MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH A PROPER BRAKING SYSTEM, AN AUDIBLE WARNING DEVICE, AND AN EFFECTIVE NOISE REDUCTION MECHANISM.

THEY CANNOT BE OPERATED BY ANYONE UNDER 18, MUST NOT CARRY ANY PASSENGER, MUST NOT BE IMPROPERLY LOADED, MUST BE PROPERLY LIT AFTER DARK, MUST BE MAINTAINED IN A SAFE CONDITION AT ALL TIMES, AND MUST BE INSURED AGAINST THIRD PARTY RISKS.

IN ADDITION, THE USE OF THE VEHICLES COULD BE PROHIBITED ON CERTAIN ROADS OR AT CERTAIN HOURS OF THE DAY, DEPENDING ON THE LOCAL CONDITIONS. THERE COULD ALSO BE A LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES EITHER GENERALLY OR IN A PARTICULAR AREA.

IF THE PERMIT SYSTEM IS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATURE, EXISTING VEHICLE OWNERS WOULD BE GRANTED A GRACE PERIOD TO CONFORM WITH THE REQUIREMENTS.

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AMONG THE ISSUES DISCUSSED BY THE TAC TODAY, THERE WAS ALSO A PETITION BY NT TAXI OPERATORS TO EXTEND THEIR AREA OF OPERATION TO SHA TIN KCR STATION, KAU TO SHAN, CHOI HUNG MTR STATION AND THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL.

THE NT TAXI OPERATORS ALSO APPLIED FOR A FARE INCREASE AND SURCHARGE ON RADIO CALL TAXI SERVICE, AND PERMISSION TO ALLOW THEIR TAXIS ACCESS TO THE URBAN AREA AFTER MIDNIGHT AND IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE TAC WILL REPLY TO THE PETITION AND ITS RECOMMENDATION ON THE FARE INCREASE APPLICATION WILL BE REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

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MP'S SEE DIFFERENT TYPES OF HOUSING
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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH HONG KONG PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, SIR PETER BLAKER, AND CONSERVATIVE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, SIR PAUL BRYAN, TOURED EASTERN DISTRICT THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING TO SEE VARIOUS TYPES OF HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

ACCOMPANIED BY ACTING SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, AND EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BOWEN LEUNG, THEY FIRST WENT TO TAIKOO SHING, ONE OF HONG KONG'S MODERN PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL ESTATES FOR THE MIDDLE INCOME GROUP, WHERE THEY VISITED A SHOW FLAT AND TOURED VARIOUS SHOPS IN THE CITY PLAZA COMPLEX.

LATER, SIR PETER AND SIR PAUL VISITED CHAI WAN ESTATE WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED ON EARLY PUBLIC HOUSING MODELS AND THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN HOUSING BY THE CHIEF HOUSING MANAGER (CENTRAL AND ISLANDS), MR LO CHI-YUEN.

THEY WERE TOLD CHAI WAN ESTATE WAS FIRST BUILT IN 1964 AND NOW HAD 15 BLOCKS HOUSING ABOUT 18 400 PEOPLE.

SIR PETER AND SIR PAUL DROPPED IN ON A FAMILY AT THE ESTATE BEFORE GOING TO WAN TSUI ESTATE TO SEE VARIOUS FACILITIES BEING DEVELOPED. THE NEW ESTATE, BEING BUILT IN THREE PHASES, WILL PROVIDE HOMES FOR ABOUT 16 600 PEOPLE WHEN COMPLETED NEXT YEAR.

AT MOUNT PARKER, THE VISITING MP'S HAD A COMMANDING VIEW OF SHAU KEI WAN AND QUARRY BAY AREAS, AND WERE TOLD THAT THERE WERE PLANS TO RECLAIM THE ALDRICH BAY TYPHOON SHELTER AND TO PROVIDE A NEW SHELTER NORTH OF THE EXISTING BREAKWATER.

AT THE VANTAGE POINT, THEY SAW ONE OF HONG KONG'S MOST SPECTACULAR HIGHWAYS - THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, THE SAI WAN HO RECLAMATION PROJECT AND THE SITE FOR THE FUTURE EASTERN DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

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THEY WERE TOLD THAT THERE WERE LONG-TERM PLANS TO CLEAR THE SQUATTER AREAS ALONG THE HILLSIDES IN THE DISTRICT WHICH HAD A POPULATION OF ABOUT 37 000.

AT THE END OF THE TOUR, SIR PETER AND SIR PAUL MET MEMBERS OF THE FOUR DISTRICT BOARDS OF HONG KONG ISLAND AT THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE.

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GROUP TO STUDY CHILD CARE SERVICES
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A WORKING GROUP FORMED RECENTLY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF EXISTING POLICIES AND PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE SERVICES AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THEIR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE FULL TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE SERVICES ARE:

- (A) TO REVIEW EXISTING POLICIES AND PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE SERVICES, INCLUDING CRECHES, RECEPTION CENTRES, CHILDREN'S HOMES, BOYS' AND GIRLS' HOMES, FOSTER CARE AND SMALL GROUP HOMES;
- (B) TO EXAMINE RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES TO THE FAMILY, AND TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH SUCH SERVICES OR NEW SERVICES SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN ORDER TO MINIMISE OR OBIATE THE NEED FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE;
- (C) HAVING REGARD TO (B) TO IDENTIFY THE NEED FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS AND TO ADVISE ON THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO MEET THESE NEEDS;
- (D) TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE SERVICES; AND
- (E) TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

THE WORKING GROUP IS CHAIRED BY MR L.B. MACQUARRIE, CHAIRMAN, DIVISION OF APPLIED SCIENCE, HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC. OTHER MEMBERS ARE:

/MISS BETTY WOO

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MISS BETTY WOO	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE
DR LILLIAN KO	CONSULTANT PAEDIATRICIAN ARRAN STREET CHILD ASSESSMENT CLINIC
PROF F. LIEH-MAK	PROFESSOR AND HEAD, UNIVERSITY PSYCHIATRIC UNIT QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL
MR MICHAEL LAI	SUPERINTENDENT ST CHRISTOPHER'S HOME
MRS CECILIA LEE	MEMBER SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MISS LOLLY CHIU	PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (WELFARE) HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH
MR A.M. REYNALDS	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (DEVELOPMENT) SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
MISS SANSAN CHING	CHAIRMAN HONG KONG COUNCIL OF EARLY EDUCATION AND SERVICE

THE WORKING GROUP WOULD WELCOME WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS OR VIEWS FROM CONCERNED ORGANISATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS. THESE MAY BE ADDRESSED TO MR E.A. JOHNSON, SECRETARY, WORKING GROUP ON DEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE SERVICES, C/O HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 18 LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

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NEW LOOK TOWN CENTRE FOR TUEN MUN
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TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN SELBY, THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING CALLED ON THE MEDIA TO FOCUS MORE ATTENTION ON DISTRICT AFFAIRS TO HELP PROMOTE RESIDENTS' AWARENESS OF THEIR COMMUNITY.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON A TV PROGRAMME, +GOOD MORNING, TUEN MUN+, MR SELBY ANNOUNCED THAT A NEW LOOK TUEN MUN TOWN CENTRE WILL EMERGE FROM THE HEART OF THE DISTRICT IN THE COMING YEARS.

/INTRODUCING THE

INTRODUCING THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN CENTRE, MR SELBY SAID THERE ARE SEVEN SITES IN THE TOWN CENTRE WHICH HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED FOR PRIVATE COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

+THESE SITES, WHEN FULLY DEVELOPED BY 1990, WILL PROVIDE MORE THAN 5 500 HOMES FOR A PLANNED POPULATION OF ABOUT 17 000,+ HE SAID.

THE CIVIC AND CULTURAL COMPLEX CONSTITUTED THE MAJOR PART OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT FOR THE TOWN CENTRE OF TUEN MUN.

+THE COMPLEX, WHICH IS ESTIMATED TO COST MORE THAN \$345 MILLION, WILL COMPRISE A GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, AN AUDITORIUM, A BUS TERMINUS, A COURT, A LIBRARY AND A POST OFFICE,+ MR SELBY SAID.

+IN VIEW OF THE URGENT NEED FOR A STANDARD PUBLIC LIBRARY AND A NEW DISTRICT POST OFFICE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS UPGRADED THE PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK TO START IN 1986-87 AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF ABOUT \$40 MILLION,+ HE CONTINUED.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAU WONG-FAT, SAID: +I HOPE THE TV PROGRAMME WILL GIVE THE GENERAL PUBLIC A CLEAR PICTURE OF TUEN MUN AND AROUSE A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS.+

+GOOD MORNING, TUEN MUN+, WHICH FEATURES INTERVIEWS, DISTRICT HISTORY, DISTRICT AFFAIRS, AND A PADDLING BOAT RACE, WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 1) MORNING ON TVB JADE CHANNEL.

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BOARD TO DISCUSS DRAFT NATIONALITY ORDER
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CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE WHITE PAPER ON THE DRAFT HONG KONG (BRITISH NATIONALITY) ORDER 1986 AT THE MEETING ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 31) AFTERNOON.

THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MRS REGINA IP, AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION (PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION), MR STEPHEN K.C. KUO, WILL BE PRESENT TO EXPLAIN DETAILS OF THE WHITE PAPER.

THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR S.Y. CHUNG, WILL ALSO ATTEND THE MEETING.

AT THE MEETING, BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS A PROPOSED ELEVATED WALKWAY NETWORK LINKING ADMIRALTY STATION, CHATER GARDEN AND HUTCHISON FOOTBRIDGE.

/THEY WILL

THEY WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON A SITUATION REPORT ON THE PROPOSED SMITHFIELD MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING IN KENNEDY TOWN.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS OF BOARD'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 31) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF THE HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, HONG KONG.

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MAGIC FOUNTAIN A NEW ATTRACTION AT GARDENS
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THE LATEST ACQUIREMENT IN THE POPULAR HONG KONG ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL GARDENS IS NEITHER ANOTHER RARE SPECIES OF MONKEY NOR A WILD BIRD, BUT A NEW FABULOUS FOUNTAIN TERRACE.

BUILT AT A COST OF \$5.5 MILLION, THE 6 210-SQUARE-METRE FOUNTAIN TERRACE WILL BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC AS FROM FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 1).

+VISITORS TO THE GARDENS WILL SURELY BE FASCINATED BY THE KALEIDOSCOPIC VIEWS IT OFFERS AS THE FOUNTAIN IS DESIGNED IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WILL NEVER GIVE THEM A DULL MOMENT,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID THE FOUNTAIN WAS BUILT IN A 400-SQUARE-METRE POOL WITH A TWO-TIER CASCADE. ON TOP OF THE UPPER TIER OF THE CASCADE ARE FOUR HUGE-SIZE DANDERLION-SHAPED WATER JETS.

ON THE NORTH-EAST AND NORTH-WEST SIDES OF THE FOUNTAIN, THERE ARE TWO LOW WALLS WHICH ARE JUST HIGH ENOUGH TO CONCEAL THE CASCADE, BUT NOT THE DANDERLION-SHAPED JETS. IN FRONT OF THE WALLS IS A ROW OF WATER JETS EMITTING WATER COLUMNS OF DIFFERENT HEIGHTS WHICH CAN ONLY BE SEEN FROM ONE PARTICULAR DIRECTION IN THE GARDENS.

THE MAIN PART OF THE FOUNTAIN, WHICH IS FACING THE VIEWING PLATFORMS OF THE GARDENS, IS FITTED WITH TWO ROWS OF MUSHROOM-SHAPED WATER JETS WITH THE TWO-TIER CASCADE AS THE BACKDROP.

/+EVEN LOOKING

+EVEN LOOKING FROM THE VANTAGE POINT ON THE TWO ELEVATED VIEWING PLATFORMS IN THE GARDENS WILL STILL NOT GIVE THE VIEWERS A FULL VIEW OF THE FOUNTAIN,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

+THE ONLY WAY TO FULLY APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF THE FOUNTAIN IS TO TAKE A SLOW WALK AROUND IT,+ HE ADDED.

THE +SCENES+ OF THE FOUNTAIN ARE EVEN MORE FASCINATING AT NIGHT WHEN MULTI-COLOUR LIGHTS INSTALLED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE POOL ADD POLY-PIGMENTS TO ALL THE WATER COLUMNS.

TO ENABLE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SEE THESE WONDERFUL SCENES THERE, THE MANAGEMENT OF THE GARDENS WILL EXTEND THE OPENING HOURS OF THAT PART OF THE GARDENS UNTIL 10 P.M. EVERY DAY, INSTEAD OF THE PRESENT CLOSING TIME OF 7 P.M.

APART FROM THE FOUNTAIN ITSELF, THE FOUR FLOWER BEDS SURROUNDING THE FOUNTAIN ARE ALSO WORTH A CLOSE LOOK.

BESIDES COLOURFUL FLOWERS AND GREEN GRASS, ALONG THE BORDER OF EACH FLOWER BED ARE PLANTED SOME 200 SPECIES OF SHRUBS AND PLANTS. EACH SPECIES IS IDENTIFIED BY A LABEL CARRYING THE LATIN AND CHINESE NAMES OF THE PLANT TO AROUSE VIEWERS' INTERESTS IN BOTANICAL FIELD.

THE TERRACE AREA IS SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF THE GARDENS BY A SCREEN OF GREEN PLANTS AND MATURE TREES WHERE WOODEN BENCHES ARE PROVIDED UNDER ARBOURS.

LOCATED NOT FAR AWAY FROM THE FOUNTAIN IS A NEW REFRESHMENT KIOSK.

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TENDERS CALLED FOR SITE FORMATION

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TWO TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR THE FORMATION OF SITES IN TAI PO AND CHEUNG CHAU.

THE TAI PO PROJECT INVOLVES THE FORMATION OF ABOUT 18 HECTARES OF LAND NORTH OF TAI YUEN ESTATE FOR THE PROPOSED PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE AND OTHER USES.

IT ALSO INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 1 970-METRE TWO-WAY CARRIAGEWAY SURROUNDING THE FUTURE ESTATE.

A FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS TING KOK ROAD, LINKING TAI YUEN ESTATE WITH THE PROPOSED PUBLIC ESTATE, WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED.

/INCLUDED IN

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INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT ARE THE PROVISIONS OF CULVERTS, DRAINAGE AND OTHER ASSOCIATED ROADWORKS.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN FEBRUARY 1986 AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 30 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

UNDER THE CHEUNG CHAU CONTRACT, A TWO-HECTARE SITE WILL BE FORMED NEAR SAI WAN FOR A PROPOSED CREMATORIUM AND COLUMBARIUM COMPLEX. FOOTPATHS AND DRAINAGE WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED.

IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO A SECTION OF PEAK ROAD WEST, ADJACENT TO THE SITE AS PART OF A LONG-TERM PLAN TO PROVIDE FIRE ENGINE ACCESS ALONG THE ROAD.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN DECEMBER AND TAKE ABOUT 10 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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FIRE STATION FOR LAMMA ISLAND
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THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRE STATION ON LAMMA ISLAND.

TO BE SITED NEAR TAI YUEN VILLAGE, THE TWO-STOREY STATION WILL INCLUDE A THREE BAY APPLIANCE ROOM, BARRACKS, EXERCISE ROOM, RECREATION AREA, CANTEEN AND WASH ROOMS.

ALSO INCLUDED IS A DRILL YARD AND AN ANCILLARY BUILDING FOR STORAGE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN JANUARY 1986 AND TAKE ABOUT A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

TENDERS ARE ALSO BEING INVITED FOR THE FORMATION OF 3 600 SQUARE METRES OF LAND FOR THE PROPOSED AP LEI CHAU SUB-DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION.

WORK WILL START IN JANUARY 1986 AND BE COMPLETED IN SIX MONTHS.

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TWO ON CHINA VISIT
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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR PAUL WONG, AND THE HEAD OF THE STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY, MR BRIAN TYLER, ARE VISITING CHINA FOR A WEEK AT THE INVITATION OF THE STATE BUREAU OF METROLOGY.

THE PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT IS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE AREAS OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA IN METROLOGY MATTERS.

DURING THEIR STAY IN CHINA, THEY WILL HAVE MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE STATE BUREAU AND WILL VISIT INSTITUTES OF METROLOGY IN PEKING AND SHANGHAI. THEY ARE EXPECTED BACK ON NOVEMBER 3.

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NEW FERRY TERMINAL IN USE
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THE EXISTING TEMPORARY HONG KONG-MACAU FERRY TERMINAL WOULD CLOSE FROM 6 AM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 31), A MARINE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

ALL FERRY SERVICES CURRENTLY OPERATING FROM THAT TERMINAL WOULD MOVE TO THE NEW HONG KONG-MACAU FERRY TERMINAL, HE ADDED.

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LIFE SAVING SERVICES SUSPENDED
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WITH THE APPROACH OF WINTER, LIFE SAVING SERVICES AT ALL 28 GAZETTED BEACHES IN THE NON-URBAN AREA WILL BE SUSPENDED AS FROM FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 1).

THERE WILL BE NO LIFEGUARDS ON DUTY AT THE BEACHES UNTIL NEXT SPRING, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

BEACH-GOERS TAKING WINTER DIPS ARE ADVISED TO EXERCISE EXTREME CARE WHILE BATHING AT THE BEACHES.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT ALL PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL COMPLEXES IN THE NON-URBAN AREA, EXCEPT THE FANLING SWIMMING POOL, WILL BE CLOSED FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE FROM NOVEMBER 1 UNTIL NEXT APRIL.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES FOR ROAD WORKS

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN CONNECTION WITH EMERGENCY ROAD REPAIR WORKS ARISING FROM THE BURSTING OF WATER MAINS AT THE JUNCTION OF FAT KWONG STREET AND SHEUNG FOO STREET FOR ABOUT FIVE DAYS:

THESE ARE:

- * RIGHT-TURN FROM FAT KWONG STREET WESTBOUND ONTO SHEUNG FOO STREET WILL BE BANNED.
- * LFET-TURN FROM FAT KWONG STREET EASTBOUND ONTO SHEUNG FOO STREET WILL BE BANNED.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE SHEUNG SHING STREET.

KMB ROUTES 7B, 8, 17 AND 18 AS WELL AS GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 8 WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA FAT KWONG STREET, SHEUNG FOO STREET AND SHEUNG SHING STREET.

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URBAN CLEARWAY AT PENNINGTON STREET

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THE SECTION OF PENNINGTON STREET BETWEEN IRVING STREET AND YEE WO STREET IN CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE MADE AN URBAN CLEARWAY 24-HOUR DAILY FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 1).

NO VEHICLE OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THIS ROAD SECTION.

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SALT WATER CUT

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN ABERDEEN WILL BE CUT FROM 11 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 1) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY ABERDEEN RESERVOIR ROAD, YUE KWONG ROAD, TSUNG MAN STREET, ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD, CHENGTU ROAD AND WU PAK STREET.

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TO KWA WAN TAPS OFF
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TO KWA WAN WILL BE
TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM TO 7 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 1) FOR MAINS WORK.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY KOWLOON CITY ROAD, MOK CHEONG
STREET, TO KWA WAN ROAD AND MA TAU KOK ROAD. NO. 3-19 MOK CHEONG
STREET AND MA TAU KOK LARGE ANIMAL QUARANTINE DEPOT ARE ALSO
AFFECTED.

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