



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1981

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STATEMENT ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF REVIEW  
LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE

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IN ANNOUNCING THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN STATED THAT IT HAD BEEN FULLY CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL, AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IT CONTAINS ON FUTURE POLICY FOR RENT CONTROL LEGISLATION ARE GENERALLY ACCEPTED.

THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT THIS IS THE RIGHT TIME FOR A SIGNIFICANT MOVE TO PHASE OUT RENT CONTROL. ONE OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE WAS THAT AS SOON AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT AND SUBJECT TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS RENT CONTROL SHOULD BE PHASED OUT. WHILE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE RECOMMENDATION IN PRINCIPLE, IT DOES NOT THINK THAT PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE RIGHT FOR SUCH A MOVE.

PART II OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE IS DUE TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 18, 1981. GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF PROTECTION FOR POSTWAR PREMISES SHOULD REMAIN, AND A BILL WILL THEREFORE SHORTLY BE PUT FORWARD IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROPOSING THE EXTENSION OF PART II BY A FURTHER TWO YEARS.

IN EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE LEGISLATION, CERTAIN AMENDMENTS WILL BE PROPOSED WITH THE OBJECT OF REVISING THE SYSTEM OF PERMITTED INCREASES AND CONTROLS, BROADLY IN ACCORD WITH THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

THESE WILL INCLUDE:

- (A) THE RAISING OF THE MAXIMUM PERMITTED INCREASE IN CONTROLLED RENTS FROM THE PRESENT 21 PER CENT BIENNIALLY (THAT IS, EQUAL TO 10 PER CENT PER ANNUM) TO 30 PER CENT BIENNIALLY (THAT IS, EQUAL TO 14 PER CENT PER ANNUM)-
- (B) THE EXCLUSION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF PART II OF:-
  - (I) PREMISES IN BUILDINGS ISSUED WITH AN OCCUPATION PERMIT AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE AMENDING LEGISLATION-
  - (II) PREMISES WITH A CURRENT RATEABLE VALUE (BASED ON 1976 RENTAL LEVELS) OF \$80 000 OR MORE, WITH EFFECT FROM THE EXPIRY OF THE PRESENT PART II, (THAT IS AT MID-NIGHT ON DECEMBER 18, 1981)-

/(III) PREMISES .....

(III) PREMISES WITH A CURRENT RATEABLE  
VALUE OF \$60 000 OR MORE, WITH EFFECT  
FROM MID-NIGHT ON DECEMBER 18, 1982.

THE RAISING OF THE PERCENTAGE CEILING OF PERMITTED INCREASES IN RENT FOR CONTROLLED PREMISES IS DESIGNED TO SLOW DOWN THE RATE AT WHICH SUCH RENTS HAVE BEEN FALLING BEHIND MARKET RENTS.

THE EXCLUSION OF NEW PREMISES FROM CONTROLS IS INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPERS TO PRODUCE FLATS FOR THE RENTAL MARKET, AND TO COUNTERACT ANY TENDENCY FOR OWNERS OF NEW PREMISES TO HOLD THEM VACANT FOR SPECULATIVE REASONS.

THE EXCLUSION IN TWO STAGES OF PREMISES HAVING A CURRENT RATEABLE VALUE OF \$60 000 OR MORE TAKES ACCOUNT OF THE ARGUMENT, NOTED BY THE COMMITTEE, THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD SEEK TO INTERVENE ONLY TO ASSIST THOSE CONSIDERED TO BE IN NEED OF PROTECTION, NAMELY THE MIDDLE AND LOWER INCOME GROUPS.

THE EXCLUSION OF PREMISES WITH RATEABLE VALUES OF \$80 000 OR MORE WOULD AFFECT ABOUT 1 000 TENANCIES, WITH A CURRENT RENTAL LEVEL OF ABOUT \$25 000 PER MONTH OR MORE. PREMISES WITH A RATEABLE VALUE FROM \$60 000 TO \$80 000 CARRY CURRENT RENTALS OF ABOUT \$18 000 TO \$25 000 PER MONTH- AND SOME 1 500 MORE TENANCIES WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THIS EXCLUSION.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT INCLUDES AN IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATION, WHICH WILL BE FULLY EXAMINED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE JUDICIARY, FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE JURISDICTION OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL TO PROVIDE FOR MEDIATION BETWEEN LANDLORDS AND SITTING TENANTS OF PREMISES TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE PART II CONTROLS.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF SUCH A MEASURE WOULD BE TO ENSURE A REASONABLE DEGREE OF SECURITY FOR A SITTING TENANT WHO WISHES TO EXTEND HIS TENANCY AND IS PREPARED TO PAY A FAIR MARKET RENT.

THE SPOKESMAN CONCLUDED BY RECORDING THE APPRECIATION OF GOVERNMENT OF THE VERY CONSIDERABLE WORK DONE BY THE COMMITTEE IN EXAMINING THESE COMPLEX AND IMPORTANT PROBLEMS.

HE SAID THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS ON SECURITY OF TENURE AND CONTROL OF RENTS, THE COMMITTEE, IN ITS COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF ALMOST 300 PAGES, HAD MADE A LARGE NUMBER OF DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS OF RENT CONTROL AND SECURITY OF TENURE, WHICH WILL RECEIVE MOST CAREFUL STUDY BY GOVERNMENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRES IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH VERSIONS AT \$15 A COPY.

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BANKING, DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILLS  
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THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) CONTAINS THE TEXT OF THE BANKING (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1981 AND THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 3) BILL 1981.

THE PURPOSE OF THESE BILLS, WHICH WERE FORESHADOWED IN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BUDGET SPEECH ON FEBRUARY 25 (PARAGRAPH 287), IS TO IMPROVE THE GENERAL QUALITY OF THE PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION EXERCISED OVER THE ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG OF BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

THE BILLS THUS COMPLEMENT THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL, AND THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL, PUBLISHED ON APRIL 10, WHICH DEAL WITH THE DEFINITION OF BANKING BUSINESS AND THE CREATION OF A NEW CATEGORY OF LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY.

THE BILLS INCREASE THE MINIMUM PAID UP SHARE CAPITAL REQUIRED BY LOCALLY-INCORPORATED BANKS AND REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (WITH AN APPROPRIATE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD FOR THOSE NOW BELOW THE NEW MINIMUM). THEY ALSO INTRODUCE, OR TIGHTEN, CERTAIN CONTROLS ON ADVANCES TO DIRECTORS OF BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, AND TO CERTAIN OTHER CUSTOMERS.

THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 3) BILL INTRODUCES LIMITS, RELATED TO ITS PAID UP CAPITAL AND RESERVES, ON THE SHAREHOLDINGS OR INTERESTS IN LAND AND PROPERTY WHICH MAY BE HELD BY A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY. THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES THAT ALL DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WILL IN FUTURE REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES BEFORE OPENING BRANCHES IN HONG KONG OR, FOR COMPANIES INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG, ABROAD.

A NUMBER OF MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE TWO ORDINANCES ARE CONTAINED IN THE TWO BILLS, WHICH ALSO AIM TO REVISE THE PENALTIES SET FOR DIFFERENT OFFENCES.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL MOVE THE SECOND READINGS OF THESE TWO BILLS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 13.

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## MONEY SUPPLY AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS FOR MARCH 1981

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THE MONEY SUPPLY AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS FOR MARCH 1981 ARE PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THEY SHOW A FALL, PARTLY ON SEASONAL GROUNDS, IN THE QUARTERLY GROWTH RATES OF THE MONEY SUPPLY (M3) AND OF CREDIT TO THE ECONOMY. THERE WAS A FURTHER OUTFLOW OF FUNDS FROM THE HONG KONG MONETARY SECTOR IN THE MONTH.

THE DETAILED FIGURES FOR MARCH 1981, AND COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS MONTHS, ARE SET OUT IN TABLE 1. TABLE 2 SETS OUT SOME FIGURES FROM THE QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR.

AS THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY POINTED OUT IN PARAGRAPH 32 OF HIS BUDGET SPEECH, OUR MONETARY STATISTICS DO NOT YET PROVIDE A BASIS FOR REALLY MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS. THE GOVERNMENT IS HOWEVER NOT YET IN A POSITION TO PUBLISH ON A REGULAR BASIS THE STATISTICS WHICH ARE NOW BEING COLLECTED UNDER THE MONETARY STATISTICS ORDINANCE.

MONEY SUPPLY

THE MONEY SUPPLY ON THE NARROWEST DEFINITION, M1 (NOTES AND COINS WITH THE PUBLIC, PLUS DEMAND DEPOSITS, OTHER THAN FROM BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, WITH LICENSED BANKS) ROSE BY 0.6 PER CENT DURING MARCH, AFTER FALLING BY 11.2 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY (ON SEASONAL GROUNDS).

M2 (M1 PLUS SAVINGS AND TIME DEPOSITS, OTHER THAN FROM BANKS AND DTCS, WITH LICENSED BANKS) INCREASED BY 1.2 PER CENT IN MARCH, AFTER A 1.4 PER CENT FALL IN FEBRUARY.

M3 (M2 PLUS PUBLIC DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES) INCREASED BY 1.3 PER CENT IN MARCH, AFTER RISING BY 0.9 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY.

IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1981 M1 FELL FURTHER BY 1.6 PER CENT, AFTER FALLING BY 5.7 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1980. BUT IN THE FIRST QUARTER M2 ROSE BY 5.8 PER CENT AND M3 BY 7.3 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE INCREASES OF 1.3 PER CENT AND 8.7 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

LOANS IN HONG KONG

TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG GREW BY 2.9 PER CENT IN MARCH, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 2.3 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY. IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1981 TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG ROSE BY 11.6 PER CENT, WELL DOWN FROM AN INCREASE OF 16.7 PER CENT RECORDED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1980.

BANK LOANS IN HONG KONG ROSE IN MARCH BY 2.7 PER CENT AND LOANS IN HONG KONG BY DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES BY 3.4 PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH THE INCREASES OF 2.5 PER CENT AND 1.6 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY RESPECTIVELY. BUT THE GROWTH RATES OF LOANS IN HONG KONG BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1981 AT, RESPECTIVELY, 11.8 PER CENT AND 10.9 PER CENT, WERE DOWN FROM THEIR INCREASES OF 18.0 PER CENT AND 12.7 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

## FOREIGN ASSETS

THE NET IDENTIFIABLE FOREIGN ASSETS OF ALL BANKS FELL IN MARCH BY \$3 885MN, WHILE THOSE OF DTCS ROSE BY \$2 037MN, SUGGESTING A NET OUTFLOW OF FUNDS FROM THE HONG KONG MONETARY SECTOR OF \$1 848MN, AGAINST AN OUTFLOW OF \$1 289MN IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH. THE NET OUTFLOW OF FUNDS FROM HONG KONG IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1981 AMOUNTED TO \$4 111MN, AS COMPARED WITH A NET OUTFLOW OF \$3 977MN IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1980.

## BALANCE SHEET RATIOS

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO FOR ALL BANKS IN HONG KONG ROSE IN MARCH TO 46.4 PER CENT FROM 46.1 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY. THE LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO ROSE FURTHER TO 113.1 PER CENT AT THE END OF MARCH FROM 112.1 PER CENT AT THE END OF FEBRUARY.

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO FOR ALL DTCS FELL IN MARCH TO 44.2 PER CENT FROM 45.0 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY. THE LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO, HOWEVER, ROSE TO 68.8 PER CENT AT THE END OF MARCH FROM 67.7 PER CENT AT THE END OF FEBRUARY.

## QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LENDING IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR

IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1981, LOANS TO THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ROSE BY 14.7 PER CENT, WELL UP FROM A 8.9 PER CENT RISE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1980. LOANS TO THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR EXPANDED BY 21.3 PER CENT, DOWN FROM AN INCREASE OF 26.3 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. LOANS TO THE TRANSPORT AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT SECTOR FELL BY 4.3 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER, AFTER A RISE OF 1.3 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

BORROWING BY INDIVIDUALS TO PURCHASE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY ROSE BY 8.6 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1981, DOWN FROM AN INCREASE OF 15.8 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1980. BORROWING BY INDIVIDUALS FOR OTHER PURPOSES, HOWEVER, ROSE FURTHER BY 17.2 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER, AFTER RISING BY 3.1 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

## NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING BANKS REMAINED UNCHANGED IN MARCH AT 115. THE NUMBER OF REPORTING DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE BY ANOTHER 15 DURING THE MONTH TO 332.

TABLE 1

## MONEY AND BANKING FIGURES - END OF MARCH 1981 (IN HK\$ MILLIONS)

	FIGURES FOR EARLIER MONTHS (% CHANGE):			
	MARCH 1981	FEBRUARY 1981	DECEMBER 1980	MARCH 1980
M1	23 745	23 615 (+0.6%)	24 124 (-1.6%)	20 310 (+16.9%)
M2	102 490	101 265 (+1.2%)	96 862 (+5.8%)	76 109 (+34.7%)
M3	149 733	147 753 (+1.3%)	139 578 (+7.3%)	106 657 (+40.4%)
<u>BANKS</u>				
DEPOSITS	93 844	92 185 (+1.8%)	88 490 (+6.1%)	68 393 (+37.2%)
LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG	106 154	103 335 (+2.7%)	94 970 (+11.8%)	69 560 (+52.6%)
LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO	113.1%	112.1%	107.3%	101.7%
AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO	46.4%	46.1%	48.4%	52.6%
<u>DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES</u>				
DEPOSITS	47 243	46 488 (+1.6%)	42 716 (+10.6%)	30 548 (+54.7%)
LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG	32 515	31 454 (+3.4%)	29 317 (+10.9%)	16 742 (+94.2%)
LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO	68.8%	67.7%	68.6%	54.8%
AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO	44.2%	45.0%	44.2%	44.6%
<u>BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES</u>				
TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG	138 669	134 789 (+2.9%)	124 287 (+11.6%)	86 302 (+60.7%)

TABLE 2

QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG  
(IN HK\$ MILLIONS)

CATEGORY OF BORROWER	LOANS AND ADVANCES BY BANKS		LOANS AND ADVANCES BY DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES	
	MARCH 1981	DECEMBER 1980	MARCH 1981	DECEMBER 1980
MANUFACTURING OF WHICH:	13 673 (+14.9%)	11 905	1 602 (+13.0%)	1 418
TEXTILES	3 106 (+16.1%)	2 675	248 (-8.1%)	270
TRANSPORT AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	7 260 (-5.7%)	7 699	3 765 (-1.5%)	3 822
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION	16 753 (+19.1%)	14 064	6 545 (+27.3%)	5 143
GENERAL COMMERCE	29 021 (+6.3%)	27 308	5 025 (+2.5%)	4 904
FINANCIAL CONCERNS *	6 030 (+13.0%)	5 336	1 668 (+29.4%)	1 289
INDIVIDUALS: TO PURCHASE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY	7 921 (+10.4%)	7 173	4 786 (+5.7%)	4 530
OTHER PURPOSES	9 977 (+11.4%)	8 952	5 044 (+30.6%)	3 861
OTHERS	15 519 (+23.8%)	12 533	4 080 (-6.2%)	4 350
TOTAL *	106 154 (+11.8%)	94 970	32 515 (+10.9%)	29 317

\* THIS EXCLUDES FUNDS ADVANCED BY BANKS TO DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

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CHANGES TO RATING ORDINANCE  
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A BILL WHICH PROPOSES A NUMBER OF CHANGES OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE NATURE TO THE RATING ORDINANCE IS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

AMONG THE MORE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL ARE :

- (A) FOR FUTURE REVIEWS OF RATEABLE VALUES THE GOVERNOR WILL DESIGNATE A DATE BY REFERENCE TO WHICH VALUES ARE TO BE DETERMINED. SINCE RENTS TEND TO CHANGE RAPIDLY OVER EVEN SHORT PERIODS, THIS PROPOSAL WILL HELP TO SECURE GREATER UNIFORMITY IN THE LEVEL OF RATEABLE VALUES.
- (B) IN FUTURE, VALUATION LISTS WILL BE ON DISPLAY TO THE PUBLIC ONLY IN THE YEAR FOLLOWING A GENERAL REVALUATION. HOWEVER, ADDITIONAL FACILITIES ARE BEING PROVIDED AT BOTH THE TREASURY AND RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT WHEREBY RATEPAYERS WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING ASSESSMENTS AT ANY TIME DURING THE YEAR. THIS PROPOSAL WILL NOT AFFECT A RATEPAYER'S RIGHT TO OBJECT TO AN ASSESSMENT EACH YEAR.
- (C) IN FUTURE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THE TREASURY TO CHARGE RATES ON AN INTERIM VALUATION FOR UP TO 24 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE ISSUE OF THE DEMAND NOTE INSTEAD OF 12 MONTHS AS PRESENTLY PROVIDED. ALTHOUGH IT IS UNLIKELY THAT IT WILL OFTEN BE NECESSARY TO BACK-DATE ASSESSMENTS TO SUCH AN EXTENT THE PROPOSAL WILL EASE THE BURDEN ON THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT AT TIMES WHEN IT IS HEAVILY INVOLVED WITH OTHER WORK.
- (D) IN KEEPING WITH THE ABOVE AMENDMENT IT IS ALSO PROPOSED TO INCREASE FROM 12 TO 24 MONTHS THE PERIOD IN WHICH A RATEPAYER MAY CLAIM A REFUND OF RATES.
- (E) A NUMBER OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS CONCERN THE MANNER IN WHICH PREMISES ARE EXEMPTED FROM RATES, BUT PROVISION IS ALSO INCLUDED TO CONFIRM THE PRACTICE OF EXEMPTING FROM RATES DOMESTIC UNITS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS AND COTTAGE AREAS MANAGED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT STRESSED THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS DID NOT PRESAGE ANY EARLY REVIEW OF RATEABLE VALUES.

ON THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND FROM 12 TO 24 MONTHS THE MAXIMUM PERIOD THAT RATES CAN BE CHARGED ON INTERIM VALUATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDE THAT RATES ON AN INTERIM VALUATION OF MORE THAN 12 MONTHS WILL NOT BECOME CHARGEABLE UNTIL AFTER DECEMBER 1981.

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MORE LAND FOR HOUSING PLANNED  
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SHA TIN NEW TOWN WILL ENTER ANOTHER STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT LATER THIS MONTH, FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF A CONTRACT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MA ON SHAN.

THE CONTRACT, WORTH ABOUT \$48 MILLION, WAS SIGNED TODAY BY MR JOHN DON, DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT AND MR H.S. LEE OF OKPO CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING CO. LTD.

IT CALLS FOR THE RECLAMATION OF 12 HECTARES OF LAND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING TO PROVIDE PLACES FOR ABOUT 25 000 PEOPLE.

THE CONTRACT, THE FIRST AWARDED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW SATELLITE TOWN AT MA ON SHAN, ALSO COVERS THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEAWALLS AND AN ACCESS ROAD OF ABOUT THREE KILOMETRES LONG, AND THE FORMATION OF A FISHERMAN'S VILLAGE RESITE AREA.

THE WORK IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 30 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

MR DON SAID THAT THE WORK FORMED THE FIRST STAGE OF A MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENT AT MA ON SHAN TO HELP MEET THE DEMAND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING BEYOND 1985.

THE FULL DEVELOPMENT WILL PROGRESS IN STAGES OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, AS THE NEED FOR MORE LAND ARISES.

MR DON SAID THAT DETAILED PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT HAD BEGUN.

IT IS PLANNED TO INCORPORATE ALL ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES, SUCH AS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING, INDUSTRIES, SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY HALLS, POLYCLINICS, OPEN SPACE AND OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. A CIVIC CENTRE COMPLEX IS ALSO BEING PLANNED.

MA ON SHAN, SITUATED TO THE NORTH-EAST OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN, PROVIDES AN IDEAL LOCALE FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AS IT IS ADJACENT TO THE SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK, AND HAS A VIEW OF TOLO HARBOUR.

IT IS ALSO WITHIN EASY REACH FROM THE DEVELOPED AREAS OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

HE SAID: +THE GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING IN DETAIL THE TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS AND LAND NEEDS OF THIS DEVELOPMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER STUDIES IN THE TERRITORY.

AS RECENTLY PLANNED, THE POPULATION IN THE AREA OF DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE ABOUT 200 000, BUT FURTHER STUDIES WERE BEING MADE ON THIS, HE SAID.

WORKS OF THE CONTRACT HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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MASSIVE PLAN UNDER WAY FOR MORE WATER SUPPLIES FROM CHINA  
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS TO AWARD CONTRACTS WORTH A TOTAL OF \$150 MILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR AS PART OF A 12-YEAR SCHEME TO CATER FOR ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLIES FROM CHINA.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER (RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT) OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, MR LEUNG KWOK-WAI, TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID: +THE CONTRACTS WILL INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE PUMPING STATIONS AT MUK WU, TAI PO TAU AND FAN KAM ROAD RESPECTIVELY RECEPTION FACILITIES AT MUK WU, 5.2 KILOMETRES OF TUNNEL AND THE LAYING OF FIVE KILOMETRES OF PIPELINE.+

MR LEUNG WAS SPEAKING AFTER THE SIGNING OF A \$14 MILLION CONTRACT WITH THE HONG KONG AREA MANAGER OF DRAGAGES ET TRAVAUX PUBLICS, MR MICHAEL PINAUD.

THE CONTRACT COVERS THE LAYING OF 2.1 KILOMETRES OF STEEL PIPELINE WITH A DIAMETER OF 200 MM FROM LOWER SHING MUN VALLEY TO JUBILEE CONDUIT.

WORK WILL START NEXT WEEK AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 17 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE NEW PIPELINE TOGETHER WITH A NEW PUMPING STATION BEING BUILT AT THE LOWER SHING MUN VALLEY WILL BOOST THE DAILY SUPPLY OF RAW WATER FROM THE VALLEY TO TSUEN WAN AND SHEK LEI PUI TREATMENT WORKS BY FOUR TIMES TO ALMOST 182 000 CUBIC METRES BY EARLY 1983.+ HE SAID.

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BARNETT APPOINTED SUPREME COURT REGISTRAR  
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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT OF MR NICHOLAS JOHN BARNETT AS REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT.

MR BARNETT WAS BORN IN BRISTOL, ENGLAND IN 1940 AND EDUCATED AT BRISTOL GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON. HE OBTAINED HIS LAW DEGREE IN 1962 AND WAS ADMITTED AS SOLICITOR IN 1966.

HE WORKED AS ASSISTANT PROSECUTING SOLICITOR IN BRISTOL BEFORE JOINING THE HONG KONG JUDICIARY AS A MAGISTRATE IN 1969.

IN 1977, HE WAS APPOINTED ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT AND IN 1979 PRESIDENT, LANDS TRIBUNAL.

HE HAS ACTED AS REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT ON MANY OCCASIONS.

MR BARNETT'S APPOINTMENT IS WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 1980.

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TSUEN WAN RESIDENTS AWARE OF  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME

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MORE THAN 40 PER CENT OF TSUEN WAN RESIDENTS HAVE SAID THEY ARE AWARE OF THE NEW DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, ACCORDING TO A SAMPLE SURVEY CONDUCTED IN THE AREA RECENTLY.

AND OVER 90 PER CENT OF THOSE WHO KNOW OF THE SCHEME SAY THEY APPROVE.

THE SURVEY WAS ONE OF THE PUBLICITY MEASURES NOW TAKING PLACE IN TSUEN WAN DISTRICT TO INCREASE LOCAL AWARENESS OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND ITS PURPOSE. IT WAS CONDUCTED BY 36 LIAISON OFFICERS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISERS FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

ABOUT 620 RESIDENTS FROM TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG WERE INTERVIEWED IN CONNECTION WITH THE SURVEY, OF WHOM 266 (OR 42.8 PER CENT) SAID THEY KNEW ABOUT THE SCHEME.

THESE 266 WERE THEN ASKED IF THEY AGREED WITH IT AND WHETHER THEY WOULD REGISTER AS VOTERS AND RUN FOR ELECTION NEXT MARCH.

IN ANSWER, 245 RESIDENTS (OR 92.1 PER CENT) SAID THEY SUPPORTED THE SCHEME= 161 (OR 60.5 PER CENT) SAID THEY WOULD REGISTER AS VOTERS= AND 34 (OR 12.8 PER CENT) SAID THEY WOULD STAND AS CANDIDATES.

COMMENTING ON THE SURVEY, A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THIS IS VERY ENCOURAGING AND I WOULD SAY THAT LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE MORE AWARE OF AND SHOWING GREATER CONCERN TOWARDS THE SCHEME THAN THEY WERE THREE MONTHS AGO.+

HE SAID THIS MIGHT BE DUE TO VISITS MADE BY STAFF OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO EXPLAIN THE SCHEME.

+BUT IT MIGHT ALSO BE DUE TO THE FAIRLY HIGH LEVEL OF COMMUNITY AWARENESS IN THE TOWN, AND THE WORK DONE BY MANY OF OUR LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS,+ HE ADDED.

SO FAR, STAFF OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE HAVE VISITED 82 ORGANISATIONS IN THE AREA, INCLUDING MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, SCHOOLS AND ASSOCIATIONS.

OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, BEFORE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS BEGINS IN AUGUST, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO VISIT MEMBERS OF ALL MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS AND LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

AS WELL AS THESE VISITS, THERE WOULD BE SEMINARS, TALKS AND MEETINGS BETWEEN TSUEN WAN RESIDENTS AND DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF, HE SAID.

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NEW REGULATIONS, REVISED FEES FOR LAND REGISTRATION  
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TWO SETS OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING LAND REGISTRATION AND LAND REGISTRATION FEES IN THE LAND OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THEY ARE THE LAND REGISTRATION REGULATIONS 1981 AND THE LAND REGISTRATION FEES (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1981.

THE LAND REGISTRATION REGULATIONS, WHICH FOLLOW ON THE ENACTMENT OF THE LAND REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1980, ARE TO ESTABLISH DETAILED STATUTORY PROCEDURES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF INSTRUMENTS BY MEMORIAL IN THE LAND OFFICE, AND PROVIDE FOR THE KEEPING OF DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS OF THE LAND OFFICE, FOR THE MICROFILMING OF MEMORIALS AND INSTRUMENTS DELIVERED FOR REGISTRATION, FOR THE DISPOSAL OF MEMORIALS AFTER THE INSTRUMENTS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED, AND FOR THE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF RECORDS TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THESE REGULATIONS APPLY ONLY TO THE LAND OFFICE IN VICTORIA AND NOT TO THE DISTRICT LAND OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE LAND REGISTRATION FEES (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1981 ARE TO REVISE THE SCHEDULE OF FEES PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF THE REGISTRATION OF INSTRUMENTS IN THE LAND OFFICE IN VICTORIA, AND THE PROVISION OF COPIES OF AND EXTRACTS FROM LAND OFFICE RECORDS, INCLUDING MICROFILM RECORDS, WITH EFFECT FROM JUNE 8.

APART FROM THE REVISION OF EXISTING FEES, TWO NEW TYPES OF FEES ARE ALSO INCLUDED.

THE FIRST IS A FEE PAYABLE UPON THE REDELIVERY FOR REGISTRATION OF AN INSTRUMENT WITHHELD FROM REGISTRATION. THE FEE IS \$120 FOR EACH PERIOD OF 28 DAYS UNTIL THE INSTRUMENT IS REDELIVERED

THIS FEE, WHICH IS IN ADDITION TO THE REGISTRATION FEE OTHERWISE PAYABLE, IS INTENDED TO DISCOURAGE THE DELIVERY OF MEMORIALS WHICH DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE LAND REGISTRATION REGULATIONS, A LAND OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SECOND IS A FEE OF \$5 IMPOSED UPON PRODUCTION OF A MEMORIAL DAY BOOK OR PLAN FOR SEARCH PURPOSES. DETAILS OF THE NEW SCHEDULE OF FEES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE LAND OFFICE, REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, (WEST WING), 10TH AND 11TH FLOORS, HONG KONG.

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RED CROSS YOUTH PROGRAMME PRAISED

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THE HONG KONG RED CROSS YOUTH PROGRAMME WAS DESCRIBED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE THIS EVENING (FRIDAY) AS +WORK OF IMMENSE VALUE+.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE RED CROSS YOUTH JUBILEE CELEBRATION, SIR MURRAY SAID THAT THE PROGRAMME HAD GROWN FROM ITS MODEST START IN 1956 WITH 57 STUDENTS TO TODAY'S MEMBERSHIP OF OVER 5 000 STUDENTS, PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE AND OTHER WORKERS.

+YOU HAVE BUILT UP A STRONG AND VIGOROUS ORGANISATION. YOUNG PEOPLE ARE GIVEN A THOROUGH GROUNDING IN FIRST AID, HEALTH EDUCATION, LIFE SAVING, AND OTHER SKILLS. THEY UNDERTAKE A WIDE VARIETY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE WITH THE SICK, THE HANDICAPPED AND THE UNDERPRIVILEGED.+

HE SAID THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON YOUTH WORK, WHICH WAS PART OF THE CELEBRATIONS AND THE FIRST OF ITS KIND ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG RED CROSS, +SHOULD BE OF GREAT INTEREST AND VALUE TO PARTICIPANTS FROM HONG KONG AND COUNTRIES NEARBY+.

SIR MURRAY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE ORGANISATION'S PLAN TO EXPAND INTO NEW TOWNS WOULD BE PURSUED WITH VIGOUR, AS THIS WAS URGENTLY NEEDED.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE RED CROSS YOUTH JUBILEE CELEBRATION:

+TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IS A LONG TIME IN THE LIFE OF A YOUTH MOVEMENT - THE MAIN PURPOSE OF TO-DAY'S GATHERING IS TO CELEBRATE THE GROWTH OF THE HONG KONG RED CROSS YOUTH PROGRAMME FROM ITS MODEST START IN 1956 WITH 57 STUDENTS TO TO-DAY'S MEMBERSHIP OF OVER 5 000 STUDENTS, PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE AND OTHER WORKERS.

+YOU HAVE BUILT UP A STRONG AND VIGOROUS ORGANISATION. YOUNG PEOPLE ARE GIVEN A THOROUGH GROUNDING IN FIRST AID, HEALTH EDUCATION, LIFE SAVING, AND OTHER SKILLS. THEY UNDERTAKE A WIDE VARIETY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE WITH THE SICK, THE HANDICAPPED AND THE UNDERPRIVILEGED. IT IS WORK OF IMMENSE VALUE AND THE SPLENDID EXHIBITION WHICH OPENS TOMORROW WILL PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH AN INSIGHT INTO BOTH THE SCOPE OF YOUR WORK AND THE HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY.

+ANOTHER ENTERPRISING VENTURE DURING THESE CELEBRATIONS IS YOUR REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON YOUTH WORK. THIS IS THE FIRST GATHERING OF THIS SORT ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG RED CROSS AND SHOULD BE OF GREAT INTEREST AND VALUE TO PARTICIPANTS FROM HONG KONG AND COUNTRIES NEARBY.

+THE REGIONALISATION YOU HAVE RECENTLY INTRODUCED INTO YOUR ORGANISATION CREATES A SOUND BASIS FOR THE EXPANSION INTO NEW TOWNS WHICH YOU NOW PLAN. THIS IS URGENTLY NEEDED AND I HOPE IT WILL BE PURSUED WITH VIGOUR.

+CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SILVER JUBILEE. I HOPE THE CELEBRATIONS ARE REWARDING AND THAT THE NEXT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS WILL SEE EVEN GREATER GROWTH.+

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BOARD TO MANAGE DENTAL HOSPITAL TO BE SET UP  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO SET UP A BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO MANAGE THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL.

UNDER THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL BILL 1981, PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY, THE BOARD WILL COMPRISE A CHAIRMAN, FOUR MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, FIVE NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS INCLUDING TWO REGISTERED DENTISTS, AND FOUR OFFICIALS. THEY WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

IN ADDITION, THE DIRECTOR AND COMPTROLLER OF THE HOSPITAL WILL BE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.

THE DIRECTOR WILL BE A QUALIFIED DENTAL TEACHER NOMINATED BY THE UNIVERSITY AND APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR. THE COMPTROLLER, APPOINTED BY THE BOARD, WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCIAL MATTERS AND WILL ASSIST THE DIRECTOR IN THE DAY-TO-DAY RUNNING OF THE HOSPITAL.

THE BOARD WILL BE EMPOWERED TO EMPLOY ITS OWN STAFF OTHER THAN TEACHING STAFF WHO WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY.

IT WILL TAKE OVER THE WORK OF THE PROVISIONAL BOARD WHICH WAS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR IN MAY 1980 TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMMISSIONING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL PENDING ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION.

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SUMMER JOBS FOR CAREERS TEACHERS WORK OUT WELL  
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A PILOT SCHEME IN WHICH CAREERS MASTERS WERE ATTACHED TO OR VISITED FACTORIES AND COMMERCIAL CONCERNS DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS PROVED SUCCESSFUL LAST YEAR, MR JEFFREY DEVEREUX, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL) SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A CAREERS MASTERS' SEMINAR HELD AT HANG SENG BANK.

IN FUTURE, CAREERS TEACHERS WILL BE CALLED UPON TO PLAY AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN SHAPING THE VOCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE, AND THIS SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME CAN BE OF GREAT VALUE TO BOTH THE TEACHERS AND THEIR STUDENTS, MR DEVEREUX SAID.

+IN THE LONG TERM, EVERYONE STANDS TO GAIN FROM THIS SORT OF CO-OPERATION AND I HOPE THAT WE CAN COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN MAKING AVAILABLE ATTACHMENTS TO ALL TEACHERS WHO WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SCHEME,+ HE SAID.

THE PILOT SCHEME LAST YEAR ENABLED FOUR CAREERS MASTERS TO WORK IN SONCA INDUSTRIES FOR A TWO-WEEK PERIOD DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS. IN ADDITION SOME 90 TEACHERS VISITED VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

/+THIS WAS .....

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+THIS WAS A MOST ENCOURAGING START AND I AM PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THIS YEAR SOME 50 TEACHERS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ATTACHMENTS DURING THE SUMMER,+ MR DEVEREUX SAID.

THE SUMMER WORK SCHEME IS A JOINT VENTURE SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES AND THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

MR DEVEREUX WELCOMED THE CAREERS MASTERS' SEMINAR BECAUSE IT GAVE TEACHERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET PEOPLE FROM INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

+THIS EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND MAY LEAD TO NEW IDEAS FOR CLOSER CO-OPERATION,+ HE SAID.

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TENDERS CALLED FOR AIRPORT SELF-DRIVE CAR SERVICE  
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TENDERS ARE BEING CALLED BY THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE OPERATION OF A SELF-DRIVE HIRE CAR RENTAL BUSINESS AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

A COUNTER IN THE RESTRICTED PASSENGER BUFFER HALL OF THE TERMINAL BUILDING AND FOUR VEHICLE PARKING SPACES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITH THREE YEARS' TENANCY, STARTING IN MID-JUNE THIS YEAR.

ALL TENDERS FOR THE CONCESSION MUST REACH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD BEFORE 12 NOON ON FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1981. TENDERS RECEIVED FROM INTER-RELATED COMPANIES OR GROUPS MAY BE REJECTED.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN NEW RODNEY BLOCK, QUEENSWAY, OR FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

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INDUSTRIAL LIAISON UNIT SET UP  
IN TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE  
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AN INDUSTRIAL LIAISON UNIT HAS BEEN SET UP WITHIN TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE TO HELP WITH PROBLEMS AFFECTING LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS AND FACTORY OPERATORS.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, DR JAMES HAYES, AT A LUNCHEON MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S INDUSTRIAL SUB-COMMITTEE.

DR HAYES SAID WITH THE SETTING UP OF THE NEW UNIT, THE DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH MORE TIES WITH LOCAL FACTORIES.

+THESE WILL BE ESTABLISHED THROUGH MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION OF TSUEN WAN INDUSTRIES, INDUSTRIAL MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS, AND PERSONS WHO WISH TO FORM NEW MACS IN INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS,+ DR HAYES SAID.

+OUR PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE MORE HELP TO SOLVE ALL KINDS OF PROBLEMS AFFECTING MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN BUILDINGS IN MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP AND TENANCY,+ HE SAID.

+WE WILL ALSO ENLIST THE HELP OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE LEASE ENFORCEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL TEAMS AND TRY TO GIVE ASSISTANCE WHERE NEEDED TO THE SPECIALIST DEPARTMENTS DEALING WITH FACTORIES, SUCH AS THE LABOUR AND FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS AND BUILDING ORDINANCE OFFICE.+

SET UP LAST MONTH, THE UNIT HAS AT PRESENT TWO LIAISON OFFICERS FOR TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG WHO HAVE ALREADY VISITED SEVERAL LOCAL FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL MAC'S TO GIVE ADVICE AND OFFER HELP.

DR HAYES ALSO ASSURED MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE THAT FULL ATTENTION WOULD BE PAID TO ITS WORK.

+WE WANT THE SUB-COMMITTEE TO BE PROBLEM ORIENTATED AND, WITH OUR HELP, PROBLEM SOLVING,+ HE SAID.

HE CALLED ON MEMBERS TO MAKE FULL USE OF THEIR CONTACTS TO DO BENEFICIAL WORK FOR TSUEN WAN INDUSTRY. HE SAID THE SUB-COMMITTEE WAS PLAYING A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE BECAUSE IN TSUEN WAN THERE WERE 10 000 REGISTERED INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS AND A WORK FORCE OF 200 000.

+ON THIS BASIS, THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF SCOPE FOR USEFUL WORK,+ HE SAID.

DR HAYES ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO TWO TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MR LAM KIN-MING AND DR LAI MING-WAH, WHO WERE RECENTLY AWARDED BADGES OF HONOUR FOR THEIR SERVICES TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. MR LAM IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL SUB-COMMITTEE.

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AMBULANCES HAVE BUSY TIME

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THE AMBULANCE COMMAND OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SET A NEW DAILY RECORD BY RESPONDING TO 812 CALLS LAST FRIDAY (MAY 1).

THE PREVIOUS RECORD WAS 811 CALLS, RECEIVED DURING THE 24 HOURS ON JUNE 18 LAST YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE NUMBER OF CALLS RECEIVED HAS BEEN EXPANDING FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS AT A RATE OF BETWEEN EIGHT AND 15 PER CENT.

LAST YEAR, 221 057 CALLS WERE MADE COMPARED WITH 199 152 IN 1979. THIS IS AN INCREASE OF 11 PER CENT.

WHEN COMPARING THE 1979 FIGURE WITH 173 816 CALLS OF 1978, THE RISE IS ABOUT 14.6 PER CENT.

IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THE RESPONSE BY THE COMMAND TOTALLED 77 974 COMPARED WITH 69 459 RECORDED DURING THE SIMILAR PERIOD IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 12.3 PER CENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE REASONS FOR THE INCREASING NUMBER OF CALLS RECEIVED BY THE SERVICE WERE MANY, THE MAJOR ONES BEING THE GROWTH OF THE POPULATION AND THE PUBLIC MAKING INCREASING USE OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICE.

CITING AN EXAMPLE OF PRESSURE EXPERIENCED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID IN ONE INCIDENT ALONE ON MARCH 19 THIS YEAR WHEN A JETFOIL RAN AGROUND IN HONG KONG WATERS, 15 AMBULANCES WERE USED TO TRANSPORT 86 INJURED PASSENGERS TO QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL.

TO COPE WITH INCREASING CALLS MORE AMBULANCES ARE ENTERING SERVICE. MOST OF THE 24 ADDITIONAL VEHICLES ORDERED FOR THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR HAVE ARRIVED AND THE DEPARTMENT IS AT PRESENT CONSIDERING BUYING ABOUT 26 NEW ONES FOR THE COMING YEAR.

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SHA TIN'S FIRST REGATTA TO TAKE PLACE TOMORROW

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THE FIRST REGATTA IN SHA TIN WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON.

IT WILL BE HELD ON A 500-METRE STRETCH OF THE SHING MUN RIVER STARTING AT 2.30 PM. THERE WILL BE FOURS AND SCULLS EVENTS INVOLVING ABOUT 60 OARSMEN.

THE REGATTA IS ORGANISED BY SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD AND THE HONG KONG AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION.

IN WELCOMING THE DECISION OF THE ASSOCIATION TO HOLD A REGATTA IN SHA TIN, SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, DR PATRICK HASE SAID IT WAS EVIDENCE OF THE IMPROVED STATE OF THE RIVER, WHICH IS UNDERGOING A \$5 MILLION CLEAN-UP.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH THERE WAS STILL A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO BE DONE ON THE RIVER, INCLUDING DREDGING, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT WITHIN 12 - 18 MONTHS IT WOULD BE READY FOR USE FOR A WIDE RANGE OF BOATING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING COMPETITIONS. HE HOPED THE REGATTA WOULD BE HELD ANNUALLY.

THE RIVER CHANNEL WILL EVENTUALLY BE ABOUT FOUR KILOMETRES IN LENGTH STRETCHING FROM TAI WAI TO MA LIU SHUI AND BE ABOUT FOUR-SIX FEET DEEP.

THE CLEAN-UP OPERATION BEGAN TWO YEARS AGO, SINCE THEN TONS OF INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL WASTE HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE RIVER. MORE CLEARANCE WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THIS YEAR TO REMOVE THE MAJOR REMAINING CAUSES OF RIVER POLLUTION.

IN DUE COURSE THE SHING MUN RIVER WILL BE TREE-LINED AND RUN ALONGSIDE THE TOWN PARK. IT WILL BE A MAJOR ATTRACTION IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN WHICH WILL HAVE A POPULATION OF 750 000 BY 1990.

OFFICIATING AT TOMORROW'S OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE DR HASE AND MR BOB WILSON, PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION.

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NEW MAXICAB SERVICE IN KOWLOON

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A NEW MAXICAB ROUTE NO. 9 BETWEEN UPPER PAK TIN ESTATE AND SHEK KIP MEI MTR STATION IN KOWLOON WILL BE INTRODUCED ON MONDAY (MAY 11).

THE MAXICAB SERVICE WILL OPERATE VIA PAK WAN STREET, PAK TIN STREET, BERWICK STREET, SHEK KIP MEI STREET, WOH CHAI STREET, WAI CHI STREET, AND NAM CHEONG STREET. IT WILL RETURN TO PAK WAN STREET VIA THE SAME ROUTING.

A FLAT FARE OF 50 CENTS WILL BE CHARGED FOR A SINGLE JOURNEY.

ALSO FROM NEXT MONDAY, THE TIMETABLE OF MAXICAB ROUTE NO. 10 FROM NAM SHAN ESTATE TO SHAM SHUI PO FERRY WILL BE REVISED. THE SERVICE WILL OPERATE ONLY DURING PEAK HOURS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4.30 PM TO 8 PM DAILY.

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WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR NINE HOURS FROM 10 PM ON MONDAY (MAY 11) TO 7 AM ON TUESDAY FOR WATER MAINS CONNECTION.

THE AREAS TO BE AFFECTED ARE INDUSTRIAL ZONES 9 AND 12, TUEN MUN= TAI HING ESTATE= MING KUM ROAD LICENSED AREA= AREA 34 LICENSED AREA= AND LUNG MUN ROAD FROM TSING WEN ROAD TO PILLAR POINT.

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