



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PRIVATE SECTOR'S ROLE IN FACE OF PROTECTIONISM

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS TO FIGHTING PROTECTIONISM FOR MANY YEARS, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR ALSO HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN PUTTING ACROSS HONG KONG'S CASE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SIR DAVID WAS SPEAKING AT THE GALA FASHION PRESENTATION OF THE HONG KONG FASHION WEEK WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT OUR PRODUCTS OFFER EXCELLENT VALUE FOR MONEY TO OUR OVERSEAS BUYERS".

WHILE NOTING THAT HONG KONG WAS THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST GARMENT EXPORTER WITH CLOTHING ACCOUNTING FOR SOME 34 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS, HE POINTED OUT THAT OUR CLOTHING EXPORTS WERE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT OVERSEAS.

"THOSE WHO ADVOCATE PROTECTIONIST MEASURES SHOULD REMEMBER THAT PROTECTIONISM - THE RESTRICTION OF COMPETITION IN THE MARKETPLACE-- INEVITABLY MEANS THAT CONSUMERS HAVE TO PAY HIGHER PRICES," HE SAID.

BESIDES, HONG KONG WAS NOT JUST AN EXPORTER, BUT A MAJOR MARKET IN ITS OWN RIGHT, SIR DAVID STRESSED.

"WE ARE IN FACT THE THIRD LARGEST IMPORTER OF TEXTILES IN THE WORLD. WE WELCOME IMPORTS FROM EACH AND EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD."

"PLACES LIKE HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE WHICH HAVE OPEN MARKETS DESERVE TO BE TREATED WELL AS AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO OTHERS TO BE SIMILARLY OPEN," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THESE PLACES SHOULD NOT BE PENALISED AS PART OF AN ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY SOME OTHER ECONOMIES WHICH BUILT UP MASSIVE SURPLUSES BEHIND PROTECTIVE BARRIERS.

TURNING TO THE GALA FASHION PRESENTATION, THE GOVERNOR CONGRATULATED THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR ORGANISING THE EVENT AND PAID TRIBUTE TO HONG KONG'S DESIGNERS, MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONTINUING COMPETITIVENESS OF THE TERRITORY'S GARMENT INDUSTRY.

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JUDICIAL SALARIES COMMISSION TO BE FORMED

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A STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE TO BE DESCRIBED AS THE JUDICIAL SALARIES COMMISSION (J.S.C.), WILL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNOR, SAID THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, TODAY (MONDAY).

THIS WILL BE ABLE TO ASSESS JUDICIAL SALARIES INDEPENDENTLY FROM THOSE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE AS A WHOLE, SO THAT IN THE FUTURE IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, WHEN ASSESSING THEM, THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF A JUDICIAL SERVICE, SIR DENYS SAID.

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"IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT STEPS WILL ALSO BE TAKEN TO MAKE THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION EXECUTIVE, IN THE SENSE THAT IN FUTURE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE SENT TO THE GOVERNOR AND WILL NOT BE REFERRED TO LONDON.

"THE J.S.C. WILL BE REMODELLED SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE JUDICIARY IS REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND TWO OTHERS, THE LEGAL PROFESSION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE BAR AND THE LAW SOCIETY AND OUTSIDE INTERESTS BY THREE INDEPENDENT PERSONS.

"THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION REGULATIONS, WHICH WILL GOVERN THE PERSONAL CONDITIONS OF QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY, ARE UNDER REVISION BY THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT."

THE CHIEF JUSTICE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1988 LEGAL YEAR HELD AT THE CITY HALL.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE SAID THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ALREADY IN SEPARATING THE JUDICIARY FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE, SO AS TO MAKE IT CLEAR DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS THAT THEY ARE TWO ENTIRELY SEPARATE ENTITIES AND THAT THE STANDARDS AND CONDITIONS WHICH APPLY TO ONE DO NOT NECESSARILY AFFECT THE OTHER.

AT PRESENT JUSTICES OF APPEAL AND HIGH COURT JUDGES RETIRE AT 65, THOUGH THERE IS PROVISION TO EXTEND THE APPOINTMENT TO THESE OFFICES FOR SUITABLE PERSONS FOR UP TO FIVE YEARS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN FUTURE, SUCH EXTENSIONS MAY BE MORE FREELY GIVEN, SO THAT A NUMBER OF SENIOR JUDGES MAY BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN OFFICE AFTER 65, IF THEY ARE WILLING.

"IN THE DISTRICT COURT, RETIREMENT IS AT 60, WITH EXTENSIONS PERMISSIBLE TO THE AGE OF 65. THIS WILL REMAIN FOR APPOINTMENTS BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1987, A DATE TAKEN BECAUSE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A SEPARATE JUDICIAL SERVICE HAVE TAKEN SOME TIME.

"THEREFORE, FOR APPOINTMENTS BEFORE THAT DATE, UNLESS THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED, RETIREMENT WILL REMAIN AT 60 WITH EXTENSIONS TO 65 BEING UNUSUAL.

"ANY APPOINTMENT TO THE DISTRICT COURT SINCE JANUARY 1, 1987, HOWEVER, WILL BE UNTIL THE AGE OF 65, WITH FURTHER EXTENSIONS BEING GRANTED UNUSUALLY THEREAFTER.

"THE NECESSARY STEPS WILL BE TAKEN IN DUE COURSE TO ALTER THE LETTERS PATENT ACCORDINGLY, EITHER BY AMENDMENTS TO THEM OR TO LOCAL LAW," HE CONTINUED.

MAGISTRATES ARE APPOINTED AT PRESENT IN A SERIES OF CONTRACTS, LASTING UNTIL 60 IN ANY EVENT, AND TO 65 IF THE MAGISTRATE SHOWS HIMSELF TO BE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT HIS WORK.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT IN FUTURE, IT IS HOPED THAT MAGISTRATES WILL ENJOY A MUCH IMPROVED SECURITY OF TENURE. AFTER AN INITIAL TRIAL PERIOD, WHICH WILL USUALLY BE THREE YEARS BUT MAY APPLY TO ALL SERVING OFFICERS, A MAGISTRATE WILL BE APPOINTED UNTIL THE AGE OF 60.

AT THIS POINT, IT WILL BE DECIDED IF HE IS PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY FIT TO BE EXTENDED, WHICH WILL USUALLY BE UNTIL 65, THOUGH IT MAY BE EXCEPTIONALLY FOR LONGER.

THIS SAME SECURITY OF TENURE WILL APPLY TO ALL THE JUDICIAL OFFICERS BELOW THE RANK OF DEPUTY REGISTRAR AND STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO AMEND THE LAW ACCORDINGLY.

HE REVEALED THAT THE PENSIONS OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED. MOST OF THOSE WHO ARE SERVING WILL BE AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY OF TRANSFERRING TO THE NEW TERMS, EITHER FROM THE SPECIFIED DAY, OR FROM THE TIME IN THE PAST WHEN THE MEMBER JOINED THE JUDICIARY, ON PAYMENT OF THE NECESSARY EXTRA CONTRIBUTION.

THE LEVEL OF SALARIES, WHICH THE CHIEF JUSTICE BELIEVES TO BE THE MOST SENSITIVE ISSUE IN THE JUDICIARY AND ONE WHICH HAS A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE RECRUITMENT OF ITS MEMBERS, WILL BE, IN FUTURE, ASSESSED BY THE NEW JUDICIAL SALARIES COMMISSION.

HE WENT ON TO SAY: "WE HOPE THAT, IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, THOSE PROPOSALS WILL BE PUT TO THE NEW COMMITTEE, WITH SUCH CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES AS ARE SEEN TO BE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE, WHICH IS A SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT SERVICE."

THE CHIEF JUSTICE DISCLOSED THAT THE BULK OF THESE PROPOSALS, IN OUTLINE AS WELL AS IN MUCH DETAIL, HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE APPROPRIATE CHINESE AUTHORITIES FOR AN EXPRESSION OF THEIR VIEWS.

"I AM GLAD TO TELL YOU THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE AND THAT WE CAN PROCEED WITH THE NECESSARY ALTERATIONS, KNOWING THAT THEY WILL, IN DUE COURSE, BE CARRIED FULLY INTO EFFECT BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, AS WELL AS BY THOSE IN CHARGE OF HONG KONG AFFAIRS FOR THE NEXT NINE YEARS OR SO."

SIR DENYS SAID: "I SHOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT THESE CHANGES TO THE PRESENT PRACTICE, WHICH ARE FAR MORE THAN MERELY COSMETIC, WILL PRODUCE AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH A HONG KONG JUDICIAL SERVICE WILL OPERATE EFFECTIVELY AND INDEPENDENTLY IN THE FUTURE."

COMMENTING ON THE SUBJECT OF LOCALISATION, THE CHIEF JUSTICE SAID THAT IN THE PAST, SUCCESSFUL PRACTITIONERS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO ABANDON THE GREATER FINANCIAL REWARDS, AND THE PERSONAL FREEDOM, OF PRIVATE PRACTICE, FOR THE BENCH. HE THOUGHT THAT THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THIS WILL CHANGE.

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"WE WERE ENCOURAGED, DURING 1987, BY THE FACT THAT WE WERE ABLE TO RECRUIT SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL PRACTITIONERS WITH HONG KONG BACKGROUNDS BOTH TO THE DISTRICT COURT AND TO THE MAGISTRACY AND HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO OTHERS TO JOIN THOSE WHO HAVE SO IMPORTANT A PART TO PLAY IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

"I SHOULD NOT LIKE IT TO BE THOUGHT THAT ANY POLICY HAS BEEN ADOPTED TO LOCALISE THE JUDICIARY, EITHER ENTIRELY OR AT ANY COST.

"ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THE COMMON LAW SYSTEM HAS PROSPERED AND SPREAD TO SO MANY COUNTRIES WITH SUCH SUCCESS IS THAT IT IS A SOPHISTICATED SYSTEM, FULL OF DIFFICULT CONCEPTS OF THOUGHT AND SUBTLETIES OF REASONING.

"IT CAN BE APPLIED SUCCESSFULLY ONLY BY JUDGES AND MAGISTRATES OF THE HIGHEST CALIBRE AND NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO FILL THE BENCH WITH MEN OF INADEQUATE QUALITIES OF MIND AND CHARACTER," HE STRESSED.

REPORTING ON THE WORK OF THE COURTS IN 1987, THE CHIEF JUSTICE SAID THAT THE COURT OF APPEAL CONTINUED TO SIT IN THREE DIVISIONS, HEARING 805 APPEALS COMPARED WITH 801 APPEALS IN 1986.

THE AVERAGE PERIOD BETWEEN THE FILING OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL AND ITS HEARING HAS BEEN 38 DAYS IN CRIMINAL, 63 DAYS IN CIVIL APPEALS.

IN THE HIGH COURT, THE NUMBER OF INDICTMENTS FILED WAS 13 PER CENT BELOW THE FIGURE FOR 1986. BY MAINTAINING 12 CRIMINAL LISTS, FOR MOST OF THE YEAR, THE AVERAGE WAITING TIME BETWEEN THE FILING OF AN INDICTMENT AND THE FIRST DAY OR TRIAL TO AN AVERAGE OF 62 DAYS COMPARED WITH THE 1986 FIGURE OF 55 DAYS.

HE DISCLOSED THAT THE NUMBER OF MAGISTERIAL APPEALS TO THE HIGH COURT DECLINED FROM 1,330 IN 1986, TO 1,090 IN 1987. SUCH APPEALS WERE USUALLY HEARD WITHIN FOUR WEEKS OF BEING ENTERED.

"HIGH COURT CIVIL WORK SHOWED AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MATTERS STARTED BY SEVEN PER CENT. AS ALWAYS, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF CIVIL ACTIONS NEVER REACH THE TRIAL STAGE, THERE BEING ABOUT 460 IN 1987, COMPARED WITH 532 IN 1986, THOUGH THE AVERAGE INTERVAL BETWEEN SETTING DOWN AND TRIAL WAS 59 DAYS COMPARED WITH 49 DAYS IN 1986.

"WE ARE ALSO ABLE, IF NECESSARY, TO GIVE EARLIER DATES FOR ANY URGENT MATTERS.

"IT IS LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THE INCREASE IN 1988 IN THE JURISDICTION OF THE DISTRICT COURT TO \$120,000 WILL HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON THESE FIGURES.

"IN THE DISTRICT COURT THE NUMBER OF CRIMINAL TRIALS DECREASED FROM 1,479 TO 1,369, AND CIVIL MATTERS DECLINED BY ABOUT SEVEN PER CENT TO 47,220.

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"THE AVERAGE WAITING TIME FOR A CIVIL CASE WAS 83 DAYS AND THE PERIOD BETWEEN TRANSFER AND TRIAL OF A CRIMINAL MATTER WAS 82 DAYS, SOMEWHAT MORE THAN IS DESIRABLE." HE SAID.

THE FAMILY DIVISION OF THE DISTRICT COURT DEALT WITH 5,747 DIVORCES, COMPARED WITH 5,339 IN 1986, AT A SPEED WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE GIVEN SATISFACTION TO THE PROFESSION AND PARTIES.

AS ALWAYS, THE BULK OF THE CRIMINAL WORK HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT IN THE MAGISTRACIES, WHERE OVER 575,139 MATTERS CAME BEFORE THEM. THERE WAS A DECLINE OF THREE PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF CHARGES, WHICH ARE THE MORE SERIOUS MATTERS, AND OF ABOUT FIVE PER CENT OVERALL.

THE AVERAGE WAITING TIME BETWEEN ENTRY OF A CASE AND ITS TRIAL IN THE MAGISTRATES COURTS WAS 49 DAYS IN 1987. THIS WAS A DETERIORATION COMPARED WITH THE 1986 FIGURE OF 38 DAYS.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE CONTINUED TO SAY: "WE HAVE APPOINTED ADDITIONAL SPECIAL MAGISTRATES, WHO ARE EMPOWERED TO DEAL WITH THE SMALLER CASES, INCLUDING CONTESTED MATTERS, THOUGH THEIR POWERS OF PUNISHMENT ARE LIMITED.

"THERE IS NOW A SPECIAL MAGISTRATE IN EACH MAGISTRACY BUILDING, CONDUCTING HIS COURT IN CANTONESE AND RELIEVING THE PERMANENT MAGISTRATES TO DEAL WITH THE MORE SERIOUS CASES.

"I HOPE THAT, WITH THEIR HELP, AND A REDUCED NEED FOR MAGISTRATES TO SIT AS DEPUTY DISTRICT JUDGES, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO BRING DOWN THE WAITING TIME IN MAGISTRATES COURTS TO BELOW 30 DAYS, WHICH IS THE PROPER AIM OF A SUMMARY COURT OF THIS NATURE."

THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL DEALT WITH 19 PER CENT LESS CASES THAN IN 1986. AS A RESULT, ITS AVERAGE WAITING TIME OF 40 DAYS WAS LONGER THAN THE PERIOD OF 30 DAYS WITHIN WHICH IT IS SUPPOSED TO HEAR A CLAIM.

THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL'S WORK REMAINED MORE OR LESS THE SAME AS IN 1986, THOUGH ITS WAITING TIME OF 66 DAYS ALSO FAILS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENT THAT A CLAIM SHALL BE HEARD WITHIN 60 DAYS.

"THE CORONERS HAVE FACED AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DEATH INQUIRIES OF OVER 36 PER CENT, YET HAVE MANAGED TO SHORTEN SLIGHTLY THE WAITING TIME, WHICH IS STILL HOWEVER TOO LONG AT 104 DAYS," SIR DENYS CONCLUDED.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE ALSO SAID THAT HE IS GRATEFUL TO ALL THOSE IN THE JUDICIARY FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND SUPPORT, EMPHASISING THAT A JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE CANNOT FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE NON-LAWYERS WHO FORM 90 PER CENT OF THE STAFF.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED THANKS TO ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN ORGANISING THE LEGAL YEAR OPENING CEREMONY.

/ALSO SPEAKING

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ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY WERE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION, MR DENIS CHANG; AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG, MR SIMON IP.

THE CEREMONIAL OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR ORGANISED BY THE JUDICIARY WAS WELL ATTENDED BY JUDGES, MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION, HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES.

IT BEGAN WITH A CHURCH SERVICE AT ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL AT 4 PM, WHICH WAS PRESIDED BY THE BISHOP OF HONG KONG, THE RT REV PETER KWONG.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE INSPECTED A GUARD OF HONOUR PROVIDED BY THE HONG KONG GUARD COMPANY OF THE BRITISH FORCES AT THE EDINBURGH PLACE LATER IN THE AFTERNOON.

THE INSPECTION WAS FOLLOWED BY THE ADDRESSES IN THE CONCERT HALL OF THE CITY HALL WHICH FINISHED AT ABOUT 6 PM.

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AG PAYS TRIBUTE TO SIR DENYS

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE RETIRING CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR DENYS ROBERTS; TODAY (MONDAY) AT THE CEREMONIAL OPENING OF THE 1988 LEGAL YEAR.

SIR DENYS HAD SERVED AS SOLICITOR GENERAL, ATTORNEY GENERAL, CHIEF SECRETARY AND CHIEF JUSTICE.

"NO ONE EVER COULD HAVE DONE MORE FOR THE GOOD GOVERNANCE OF THIS TERRITORY. YOU HAVE EVERY CAUSE TO LOOK BACK WITH PRIDE ON THE PHENOMENAL WAY HONG KONG HAS DEVELOPED SINCE YOU CAME HERE IN 1962," MR THOMAS SAID TO SIR DENYS.

"UNDER YOUR DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP, CHIEF JUSTICE, THESE LAST EIGHT YEARS, THE BENCH OF JUDGES HAS BEEN ABLE TO ATTRACT THE TALENT, LEARNING, WISDOM AND PATIENCE TO DISPOSE EFFECTIVELY OF THE LEGAL BUSINESS GENERATED BY AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY.

"AND THE WAY THE JUDICIARY AS A WHOLE GETS THROUGH ITS FORMIDABLE RANGE OF CASES HAS CONTINUED YEAR BY YEAR TO EARN THE RESPECT OF THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS WHO ATTEND BEFORE IT," MR THOMAS SAID.

SPEAKING OF THE JUDGES GENERALLY MR THOMAS SAID: "BY VIRTUE OF THEIR OFFICE, THEY MUST STAND APART FROM THE POLITICS OF THE TIME AND THE ARGUMENTS IN THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE FUTURE.

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"BUT THEY DO HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROTECTING THE ESSENTIAL FEATURE OF ANY LEGAL SYSTEM - PUBLIC FAITH IN THE FAIR TRIAL OF THE DISPUTES THAT COME BEFORE THE COURTS AND IN THE IMPARTIALITY OF JUDGMENTS DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW.

"HONG KONG HAS FAITH IN THE JUDGES OF TODAY BECAUSE THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE THEM WERE SCRUPULOUS IN THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR FUNCTIONS," HE SAID.

EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH, MR THOMAS SAID ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS WHY THE DRAFT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS WIDELY ACCLAIMED AND WELCOMED IN LATE 1984 WAS BECAUSE OF THE DETAILED ASSURANCES IT CONTAINED ABOUT THE MAINTENANCE OF HONG KONG'S LEGAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS, AND THE SPECIFIC REFERENCES IT MADE TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY, TO THE PART PLAYED BY THE LAWYERS AND THE LEGAL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES ENJOYED BY HONG KONG'S PEOPLE.

"AND SINCE THAT DAY, THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS HAVE BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN TRYING TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF TRANSITION THAT ARE CRUCIAL TO THE FAITHFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PART OF THE JOINT DECLARATION," HE SAID.

AFTER GIVING A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE TASKS THEY HAD TACKLED, MR THOMAS SAID: "THIS IS ALL WORK FOR THE BENEFIT OF HONG KONG AS A WHOLE - WORK NEEDED TO ACHIEVE A SMOOTH AND SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION - AND WORK DONE - UNPAID AND OUT OF HOURS BY BUSY LAWYERS - FOR THE SAKE OF THE COMMUNITY THEY SERVE."

HE ADDED THAT THEY WORKED NOW TO SEE THAT THE FUTURE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION INHERITED A SOUND AND VIGOROUS LEGAL SYSTEM.

"AND SO TOO DO THOSE IN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS," HE SAID.

"WE NOW HAVE NEARLY 100 LOCAL LAWYERS IN CHAMBERS - MORE THAN EVER BEFORE - AND THEIR PROSPECTS OF PROMOTION HAVE NEVER BEEN BETTER.

"WE ARE LOCKED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THOSE TWIN JANITORS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE BRANCH AND CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, SEEKING THEIR AGREEMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE MANY IDEAS THAT THE LAW OFFICERS HAVE PUT FORWARD TO RETAIN AND MOTIVATE LOCAL COUNSEL."

HE SAID HE WAS ALSO AWAITING THE REPORT OF A WORKING GROUP WHICH HE APPOINTED IN LAST OCTOBER TO STUDY THE TRAINING OF LOCAL COUNSEL IN CHAMBERS.

MR THOMAS THEN DESCRIBED SOME OF THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION.

"SO THE LAWYERS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, LIKE THEIR COLLEAGUES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, ARE WORKING TODAY FOR HONG KONG'S TOMORROW," HE SAID.

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HK NEEDS INVESTMENTS WHICH WILL HELP UPGRADE HK PRODUCTS: FS

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AN ASPECT OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S INWARD INVESTMENT PROMOTIONS WORK IS TO LOOK IN PARTICULAR FOR INVESTMENTS WHICH TEND TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF HONG KONG-PRODUCED GOODS, INCREASE THE RANGE OF PRODUCTS AND IMPROVE THE PRODUCTION PROCESSES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE FRENCH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, MR JACOBS SAID NEW INVESTMENTS SIMPLY TO CREATE JOBS OR BRING IN CAPITAL WERE NOT SO NEEDED SINCE HONG KONG HAD VIRTUALLY FULL EMPLOYMENT AND A LARGE AND SOPHISTICATED FINANCIAL SECTOR.

"WE ARE CONVINCED THAT ONLY THROUGH FURTHER ENHANCEMENT EFFORTS CAN HONG KONG CONTINUE TO COMPETE WITH ITS REGIONAL NEIGHBOURS IN THE FUTURE."

HE SAID ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO UPGRADE HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY WOULD BE THROUGH JOINT-VENTURES BETWEEN LOCAL AND OVERSEAS FIRMS.

TO FACILITATE JOINT-VENTURES, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS A REGISTER OF LOCAL FIRMS LOOKING FOR PARTNERS AND SEEKING TO MATCH THEM WITH SUITABLE OVERSEAS COMPANIES.

"DURING THE FOUR YEARS AND 10 MONTHS TO OCTOBER 1987, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ASSISTED 101 PROJECTS TO COMPLETION, AND THERE ARE CURRENTLY ANOTHER 28 MANUFACTURING PROJECTS ALREADY COMMITTED," MR JACOBS SAID.

EFFORTS WERE ALSO MADE TO PROMOTE MANUFACTURING OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG.

MR JACOBS SAID: "OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, OUR FIELD STAFF IN EUROPE, JAPAN AND NORTH AMERICA HAVE BEEN BUSY PUBLICISING HONG KONG AS AN IDEAL OFFSHORE MANUFACTURING LOCATION, EXPANDING THE RANGE OF THEIR CONTACTS BY VISITS TO FAIRS AND MAIL CAMPAIGNS, AND PROVIDING WHATEVER ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE THEY COULD TO COMPANIES SHOWING SOME INTEREST IN SETTING UP A PLANT IN HONG KONG."

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ONE STOP UNIT OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WAS TASKED TO LOOK AFTER POTENTIAL INVESTORS VISITING HONG KONG, ORGANISING FOR THEM PROGRAMMES OF VISITS AND ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH USEFUL CONTACTS IN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE-SECTOR ORGANISATIONS.

IT ALSO HELPED MANUFACTURERS WHO DECIDED TO EXPAND THEIR EXISTING HONG KONG OPERATIONS.

TALKING ABOUT THE BILATERAL TRADING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FRANCE AND HONG KONG, MR JACOBS SAID FRANCE WAS HONG KONG'S 11TH MAJOR TRADING PARTNER WITH TOTAL TRADE AMOUNTING TO \$7.7 BILLION OVER THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1987.

/THE MUTUAL

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THE MUTUAL TRADE, WHICH COVERED A BROAD RANGE OF PRODUCTS, HAD A HEALTHY GROWTH OF 30 PER CENT IN 1986 OVER 1985 AND JUMPED BY A FURTHER 53 PER CENT IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF LAST YEAR.

AS TO INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT, MR JACOBS NOTED THAT HONG KONG HAD SEEN SIGNS OF INCREASING INTEREST FROM FRENCH MANUFACTURERS AND THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WAS PAYING GREATER ATTENTION TO FRANCE IN ITS PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1987-88.

"THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION WAS IN FRANCE IN APRIL 1987 FOR TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, THE FEDERATION OF FRENCH INDUSTRIES AND LEADING BANKS, AND HE HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM ANOTHER VISIT, DURING WHICH HE MET WITH SEVERAL FIRMS WHO HAVE EXPRESSED SERIOUS INTEREST IN MANUFACTURING OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG," THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID.

"IN 1988, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND THE FRENCH NATIONAL EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH THEY HAVE NEGOTIATED OVER THE PAST YEAR.

"INITIALLY, A FRENCH EXPERT WILL CARRY OUT RESEARCH, BOTH IN FRANCE AND HONG KONG, LOOKING AT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIRECT INVESTMENT, JOINT VENTURES AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN MANUFACTURING. THE COSTS OF THIS MISSION WILL BE SHARED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE FEDERATION.

"ALSO, IN MARCH, THE FEDERATION WILL HOLD A MAJOR SEMINAR IN PARIS ON THE THEME OF INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL BE SENDING SPEAKERS TO THIS IMPORTANT OCCASION."

WHILE NOTING THAT FRENCH ENGINEERING HAD A FIRST CLASS REPUTATION, MR JACOBS DREW ATTENTION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO START 131 PROJECTS WITH A TOTAL WORTH OVER \$6 BILLION IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

MAJOR PROJECTS WOULD INCLUDE PHASE V OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME, THE YUEN LONG - TUEN MUN EASTERN CORRIDOR, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING AT WAN CHAI, AND THE PAK KONG TREATMENT WORKS AND WATER TRANSFER FACILITIES STAGE II, HE SAID.

WHILE HONG KONG WELCOMED INVESTMENT IN ITS ECONOMY, MR JACOBS STRESSED THAT THE TERRITORY DID NOT OFFER ANY SPECIAL DEALS NOR DID IT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST OVERSEAS INVESTORS.

"WE ARE A COMPLETELY OPEN ECONOMY. OVERSEAS FIRMS COMPETE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH LOCAL COMPANIES."

HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HONG KONG PROVIDED THE IDEAL SETTING FOR BUSINESS BY HAVING A SOUND LEGAL, SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL FOUNDATION AND AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH WAS CONDUCIVE TO EFFICIENCY AND FLEXIBILITY.

NOVEMBER EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS RELEASED

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN NOVEMBER 1987, AT \$68,914 MILLION, GREW BY 30 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1986, ACCORDING TO TRADE VALUE STATISTICS RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1986, DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS BY 15 PER CENT TO \$17,076 MILLION IN NOVEMBER 1987 WHILE RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 43 PER CENT TO \$17,567 MILLION, BRINGING TOTAL EXPORTS IN NOVEMBER 1987 TO \$34,644 MILLION, WHICH WAS 28 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN NOVEMBER 1986.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, IMPORTS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS BY 32 PER CENT TO \$34,270 MILLION IN NOVEMBER 1987.

COMPARING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1987 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986, DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO ALL MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS.

THE MARKETS WITH THE FASTEST GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED JAPAN (+57 PER CENT), CHINA (+56 PER CENT), FRANCE (+44 PER CENT), THE NETHERLANDS (+43 PER CENT), AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+37 PER CENT).

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S LARGEST MARKET, THE U.S., GREW BY 14 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN VALUE TERMS BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1986 AND NOVEMBER 1987, ALTHOUGH THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATES FOR SOME OF THE MARKETS HAVE SLOWED DOWN IN RECENT MONTHS.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO FRANCE ROSE BY 42 PER CENT, CHINA BY 38 PER CENT, THE UNITED KINGDOM BY 36 PER CENT, SINGAPORE BY 30 PER CENT, AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY BY 24 PER CENT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE U.S. DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT.

IMPORTS IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1987 FROM ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN IMPORTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+54 PER CENT), CHINA (+44 PER CENT), TAIWAN (+41 PER CENT), ITALY (+39 PER CENT) AND THE U.S. (+34 PER CENT).

BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1986 AND NOVEMBER 1987, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+55 PER CENT), ITALY (+37 PER CENT), CHINA (+34 PER CENT), THE U.S. (+33 PER CENT) AND SWITZERLAND (+33 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, TAIWAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM, JAPAN AND CHINA INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE TERMS BY 137 PER CENT, 62 PER CENT, 59 PER CENT, 50 PER CENT AND 43 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1987 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986, RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE UNITED KINGDOM, TAIWAN, AUSTRALIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE TERMS BY 108 PER CENT, 77 PER CENT, 62 PER CENT, 59 PER CENT AND 54 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1987 AT \$679,259 MILLION, INCREASED BY 37 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 27 PER CENT TO \$176,404 MILLION WHILE RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 49 PER CENT TO \$163,725 MILLION.

THUS, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 37 PER CENT TO \$340,129 MILLION.

IMPORTS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS BY 36 PER CENT TO \$339,130 MILLION.

ALL TRADE STATISTICS PRESENTED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIOD OF COMPARISON.

A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN NOVEMBER 1987 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY FEBRUARY 1988.

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1987 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986, INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE RECORDED IN ALL MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

THE MORE NOTABLE ONES INCLUDED CLOTHING (BY \$12,393 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT); TEXTILES (BY \$4,663 MILLION OR 48 PER CENT); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$4,338 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT); AS WELL AS ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$3,062 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY \$77 MILLION OR 37 PER CENT); AS WELL AS TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$18 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT).

TABLE 2 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1987 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986, INCREASES IN IMPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$13,884 MILLION OR 36 PER CENT); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$10,184 MILLION OR 48 PER CENT); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$7,199 MILLION OR 58 PER CENT); AS WELL AS MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$6,006 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES, AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF (BY \$93 MILLION OR 8 PER CENT); AS WELL AS CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS (BY \$69 MILLION OR 4 PER CENT).

TABLE 4 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1987 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986, INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$7,662 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$6,932 MILLION OR 74 PER CENT); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$5,638 MILLION OR 66 PER CENT) AS WELL AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$4,884 MILLION OR 83 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$322 MILLION OR 48 PER CENT); AS WELL AS COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES, AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF (BY \$240 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT).

TABLE 6 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

DETAILED STATISTICS ON TRADE VALUE BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY ARE AVAILABLE IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE NOVEMBER 1987 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS SUMMARY" WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AROUND JANUARY 20, 1988, AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT \$5.50 PER COPY.

A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE", WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN NOVEMBER 1987 WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY FEBRUARY 1988 AT \$15 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. 5-8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. 5-8234915).

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JAN-NOV 1987	JAN-NOV 87 OVER JAN-NOV 86	NOV 1987	NOV 87 OVER NOV 86
	(HKD MN.)	(%)	(HKD MN.)	(%)
U.S.A.	66,665	+ 14	5,835	- 1
CHINA	24,918	+ 56	2,608	+ 38
F.R. OF GERMANY	13,238	+ 37	1,283	+ 24
U.K.	11,434	+ 29	1,230	+ 36
JAPAN	8,700	+ 57	882	+ 22
CANADA	5,059	+ 15	422	+ 19
NETHERLANDS	3,496	+ 43	329	+ 10
SINGAPORE	3,462	+ 35	383	+ 30
FRANCE	3,382	+ 44	378	+ 42
AUSTRALIA	3,335	+ 9	367	+ 11

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-NOV 1987	JAN-NOV 87 OVER JAN-NOV 86	NOV 1987	NOV 87 OVER NOV 86
	(HKD MN.)	(%)	(HKD MN.)	(%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	58,703	+ 27	5,051	+ 8
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	27,602	+ 19	2,507	+ 8
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	14,442	+ 48	1,492	+ 20

/PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS,

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PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	14,140	+ 18	1,579	+ 11
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	13,502	+ 29	1,341	+ 4
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	13,206	+ 30	1,306	+ 18

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	JAN-NOV 1987 (HKD MN.)	JAN-NOV 87 OVER JAN-NOV 86 (%)	NOV 1987 (HKD MN.)	NOV 87 OVER NOV 86 (%)
CHINA	105,206	+ 44	10,784	+ 34
JAPAN	64,589	+ 27	6,072	+ 25
TAIWAN	30,097	+ 41	3,144	+ 31
U.S.A.	28,558	+ 34	2,679	+ 33
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	14,985	+ 54	1,581	+ 55
SINGAPORE	13,024	+ 31	1,392	+ 21
U.K.	10,548	+ 24	1,100	+ 22
F.R. OF GERMANY	9,098	+ 24	925	+ 17
SWITZERLAND	6,587	+ 31	748	+ 33
ITALY	5,629	+ 39	580	+ 37

/TABLE 4:

TABLE 4: IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-NOV 1987	JAN-NOV 87 OVER JAN-NOV 86	NOV 1987	NOV 87 OVER NOV 86
	(HKD MN.)	(%)	(HKD MN.)	(%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	52,046	+ 36	4,864	+ 20
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	31,343	+ 48	3,137	+ 42
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	23,614	+ 33	2,138	+ 16
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	19,522	+ 58	2,074	+ 54
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	19,235	+ 45	1,987	+ 44
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	18,570	+ 25	1,908	+ 25

TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS BY 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JAN-NOV 1987	JAN-NOV 87 OVER JAN-NOV 86	NOV 1987	NOV 87 OVER NOV 86
	(HKD MN.)	(%)	(HKD MN.)	(%)
CHINA	53,207	+ 47	5,889	+ 43
U.S.A.	29,633	+ 47	2,621	+ 18
TAIWAN	8,719	+ 62	935	+ 62
JAPAN	8,664	+ 44	1,268	+ 50

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA	8,098	+ 54	781	+ 32
SINGAPORE	5,803	+ 21	606	+ 35
F.R. OF GERMANY	4,929	+108	612	+137
U.K.	3,880	+ 77	372	+ 59
MACAU	3,000	+ 28	281	+ 26
AUSTRALIA	2,576	+ 59	285	+ 39

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-NOV 1987 (HKD MN.)	JAN-NOV 87 OVER JAN-NOV 86 (%)	NOV 1987 (HKD MN.)	NOV 87 OVER NOV 86 (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	25,629	+ 43	2,573	+ 21
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	16,664	+ 37	1,350	+ 4
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	16,259	+ 74	1,658	+ 59
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	14,234	+ 66	1,611	+ 72
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	10,772	+ 83	1,339	+ 83
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	7,371	+ 43	732	+ 34

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NO CHANGE IN POLICY TO "II MOTHERS"

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DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS SOME 300 SO-CALLED "ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT MOTHERS" HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED TO CHINA AND ANY CHANGE IN POLICY TO THE PRESENT GROUP WOULD BE UNFAIR TO OTHERS IN THE SAME CATEGORY.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (MONDAY) BY PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR LEE LAP-SUN.

MR LEE SAID HUNDREDS OF WOMEN, WHO HAD BEEN IN HONG KONG ILLEGALLY FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO CHILDREN WHILE HERE.

IN 1986 ALONE 156 OF THESE "II MOTHERS" WERE REPATRIATED AND ANOTHER 144 WERE REPATRIATED LAST YEAR.

"THERE IS A LEGAL ROUTE FOR THESE WOMEN TO TAKE TO REJOIN THEIR HUSBANDS AND CHILDREN IN HONG KONG AND THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES ARE USING THIS ROUTE VIRTUALLY ENTIRELY TO ENABLE FAMILIES TO BE REUNITED IN THE TERRITORY," SAID MR LEE.

IN EARLY 1987 HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN WERE BROUGHT IN ILLEGALLY BY SNAKEHEADS EXPLOITING THE SITUATION.

HE SAID THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON APRIL 27 LAST YEAR ON CHILD ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION WAS NOT AN AMNESTY BY ITSELF, BUT MERELY SIGNALLED THE END OF A MORE LIBERAL POLICY TOWARDS THE CHILDREN SMUGGLED IN FROM CHINA.

THE APRIL ANNOUNCEMENT SAID CHILDREN BORN IN CHINA BUT WHO HAD ARRIVED ILLEGALLY WERE GIVEN 24 HOURS TO REPORT TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

AFTER VERIFICATION BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES THE CHILDREN WERE ASKED TO RETURN TO CHINA AND TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY LEGALLY UNDER A ONE-WAY EXIT PERMIT.

THE WOMEN WHO SURFACED AFTER APRIL 28 WERE A DIFFERENT CATEGORY: THEY WERE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO ENTERED HONG KONG AND GAVE BIRTH WHILE HERE, MR LEE SAID.

"THEY WERE NOT THE TARGETS OF OUR APRIL 27 ANNOUNCEMENT," SAID MR LEE.

THE GOVERNMENT POLICY FOR THIS CATEGORY OF ADULT WOMEN HAS ALWAYS BEEN REPATRIATION, UNLESS CIRCUMSTANCES CONTAIN STRONG HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS FOR THEM TO BE ALLOWED TO STAY.

"QUEUE-JUMPING CANNOT BE CONDONED WHEN LEGAL CHANNELS EXIST, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF WIVES MARRIED TO HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO WISH TO COME HERE," HE ADDED.

/MR LEE

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MR LEE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY MADE SPECIAL EXCEPTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO ALLOW CHILDREN BORN IN HONG KONG, BUT OUT OF WEDLOCK, TO BECOME HONG KONG RESIDENTS.

AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN REACHED WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES TO ALLOW THE YOUNG CHILDREN TO ACCOMPANY THEIR MOTHERS BACK TO CHINA IF THE PARENTS SO WISH.

"BEING HONG KONG RESIDENTS THE CHILDREN CAN RETURN ANY TIME THEY LIKE.

"THE MOTHERS CAN ALSO APPLY FOR TWO WAY EXIT PERMITS TO VISIT THEIR HUSBANDS IN HONG KONG AND THERE IS NO RESTRICTION ON THEIR HUSBANDS VISITING THEM IN CHINA," SAID MR LEE.

MR LEE ADDED THAT THE TERRITORY WAS STILL FACED WITH A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

IN 1987 ALONE MORE THAN 22,400 PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED AT THE BORDER (COMPARED WITH 16,800 IN 1986 AND 12,600 IN 1985) AND SOME 4,200 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED IN 1987 AFTER THEY EVADED BORDER SECURITY (COMPARED WITH 3,800 IN 1986 AND 3,400 IN 1985).

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PROVISIONAL HONG KONG COUNCIL
FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS APPOINTED A PROVISIONAL HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION (PHKCAA) TO PREPARE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION AS AN INDEPENDENT STATUTORY BODY BY LATE 1989.

THE U.K. COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS (CNA) HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR VALIDATING DEGREE COURSE PROPOSALS AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE AND THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO WHILST THE PHKCAA UNDERSTUDIES ITS METHODS AND PROCEDURES.

THE PHKCAA HELD IT FIRST MEETING YESTERDAY AND TODAY (JANUARY 10 - 11) UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF DR DAVID BETHEL.

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL PROVIDES FOR FIVE OVERSEAS ACADEMICS, (THE FIFTH TO BE APPOINTED DURING 1988), FIVE HONG KONG ACADEMICS, AND FIVE LAY MEMBERS DRAWN FROM THE PROFESSIONAL, BUSINESS, BANKING AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY.

/THE REMAINING

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THE REMAINING MEMBERSHIP COMPRISES DR RAYMOND HO AS VICE CHAIRMAN, WHILE THE OTHER MEMBERS ARE PROFESSOR JACK SPENCE, MR FREDERICK JAMES, DR MALCOLM FRAZER, PROFESSOR DAFYDD EVANS, PROFESSOR S.W. TAM, DR CYRIL CANNON, DR S.A. REID, DR H.S. HOUSTON, MR GRAHAM CHENG, DR JAMES WONG, MRS ALICE LAM AND MR STEPHEN LAU.

THE PHKCAA HAS APPROVED PROCEDURES AND A FULL PROGRAMME FOR UNDERSTUDYING AND COLLABORATING WITH THE CNAAC.

THIS WORK HAS BEEN FACILITATED IN NO SMALL WAY BY THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE CNAAC AS A MEMBER OF THE PHKCAA.

IT HAS BEGUN WORK ON ESTABLISHING A REGISTER OF INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL EXPERTS FROM WHICH THE HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION (HKCAA) WILL BE ABLE TO DRAW ITS VALIDATION TEAMS, AND WILL HAVE ACCESS TO A RANGE OF SUBJECT EXPERTISE AND VALIDATING EXPERIENCE WHICH IS AVAILABLE LOCALLY.

IT HAS DISCUSSED HOW TO MONITOR THE RECURRENT ISSUES RAISED DURING COURSE VALIDATION IN HONG KONG, AND THE WAYS TO BRIEF PROFESSIONAL AND LAY VALIDATION TEAM MEMBERS ON THE HONG KONG CONTEXT AND INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE COURSES TO BE VALIDATED.

THE PHKCAA IS CONSIDERING A RANGE OF VISITS TO ESTABLISH CLOSER CONTACTS WITH SIMILAR BODIES AROUND THE WORLD.

AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PHKCAA, CHAIRED BY VICE-CHAIRMAN DR RAYMOND HO HAS BEEN FORMED TO ENSURE CONTINUITY IN THE WORK OF THE PHKCAA BETWEEN MEETINGS OF THE FULL COUNCIL.

THE PHKCAA IS CONFIDENT THAT, IN VIEW OF THE CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH THE CNAAC, IT WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A FAVOURABLE REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN MID-1989 ON THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS ESTABLISHING A HONG KONG ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION BODY, WHICH WILL BE CAPABLE OF ENSURING THE CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF DEGREES AT HONG KONG'S NON-UNIVERSITY DEGREE AWARDING INSTITUTIONS.

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YEAR OF DRAGON STAMP FIRST DAY COVERS ON SALE

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OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS FOR STAMPS COMMEMORATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR OF THE DRAGON WILL GO ON SALE FROM WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 13), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED.

THE COVERS ARE 50 CENTS EACH.

ADVANCE ORDERS FOR THE FIRST DAY TREATMENT OF FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM WEDNESDAY TO JANUARY 18 AT ALL POST OFFICES, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

/THE MINIMUM

THE MINIMUM QUANTITY PER ORDER IS FIVE.

"CUSTOMERS WISHING TO AVOID CONGESTION ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE ARE ADVISED TO MAKE USE OF THIS ADVANCE ORDER SERVICE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THE SPECIAL STAMPS WILL BE ISSUED ON JANUARY 27.

THE STAMPS ARE IN FOUR DENOMINATIONS -- 50 CENTS, \$1.30, \$1.70 AND \$5.

A SOUVENIR SHEET CONTAINING A SET OF THE FOUR STAMPS WILL ALSO BE ISSUED AT \$8.50 EACH.

THE STAMPS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN PLAZA FROM JANUARY 16 TO JANUARY 17, THE CITY PLAZA AT TAIKOO SHING ON JANUARY 24, AND AT THE PHILATELIC CENTRE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AND AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE FROM JANUARY 18.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS, FIRST DAY COVERS PRE-AFFIXED WITH A SET OF STAMPS AND CANCELLED WITH THE PHILATELIC BUREAU DATESTAMP WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$10 EACH AT DESIGNATED COUNTERS OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICES ON JANUARY 27 :

HONG KONG ISLAND

BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE
CAUSEWAY BAY POST OFFICE
GENERAL POST OFFICE
PEAK POST OFFICE
TSAT TSZ MUI POST OFFICE

KOWLOON

AIRPORT POST OFFICE
CHEUNG SHA WAN POST OFFICE
GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE
KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE
TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

NEW TERRITORIES

SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
TAI PO POST OFFICE
SHEK WU HUI POST OFFICE
TSUEN WING STREET POST OFFICE
TUEN MUN SAN HUI POST OFFICE
YUEN LONG POST OFFICE

THE SIX NEW TERRITORIES OFFICES PROVIDING THIS SERVICE ARE ADDITIONAL TO NORMAL FIRST DAY ISSUE ARRANGEMENTS.

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MONTH-LONG PROGRAMME FOR TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL

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A MONTH-LONG PROGRAMME OF QUALITY PERFORMANCES HAS BEEN DRAWN UP FOR THE 10TH TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL TO BE HELD BETWEEN JANUARY 23 AND FEBRUARY 27.

BOTH LOCAL AND VISITING ARTISTS WILL TAKE PART IN PERFORMANCES HELD MAINLY IN THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, A FOCAL POINT FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE FESTIVAL WILL INCLUDE CONCERTS, DRAMA, BALLET AND EXHIBITIONS. THERE WILL BE LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS ON PAINTING, DESIGN AND HANDICRAFT WITH FREE ADMISSION FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE ARTS NURTURE SCHEME ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD WILL ALSO GIVE A NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES.

THE OPENING SHOW JOINTLY PRESENTED WITH RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG WILL FEATURE WELL-KNOWN SINGERS AND ENTERTAINMENT PERSONALITIES.

THE FESTIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE TSUEN WAN CULTURE AND RECREATION CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION. IT IS MAINLY FUNDED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 2.30 PM AT THE EXHIBITION GALLERY ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE 10TH TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE HOSTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL, MR CHEUNG CHUNG-YAN.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS LONG-TERM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL CONSIDER A PROPOSED LONG-TERM PROGRAMME FOR THE CLEARANCE OF REAR-LANE STRUCTURES AT A MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE PROGRAMME WILL APPLY TO REAR-LANE STRUCTURES WHICH ENCROACH UPON CROWN LAND AND HAVE BEEN COVERED AND REGISTERED IN A SURVEY IN 1986.

/MEMBERS WILL

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MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS A PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM AT SHEK WU SAN TSUEN, SHEUNG SHUI.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE SITUATION REPORTS ON LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS, SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND THE VILLAGE LIGHTING PROGRAMME FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 9.30 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS SUBSIDY SCHEME

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THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE GUIDELINES OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S DISTRICT FESTIVALS SUBSIDY SCHEME AT A MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO STUDY THE APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS AND THE REPORTS ON VARIOUS ACTIVITIES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 10 AM IN THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

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NORTH DB TO HOLD SUPPLEMENTARY MEETING

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THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD A SUPPLEMENTARY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 13) TO DISCUSS OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM ITS PREVIOUS MEETING ON DECEMBER 18, 1987.

MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL OF ORGANISING AN AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

/A REPORT

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 1988

- 23 -

A REPORT FROM THE NORTH DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL ALSO BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD SUPPLEMENTARY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 13) AT 9.30 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

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VARIETY SHOW TO PROMOTE FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN

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A FREE VARIETY SHOW AIMED AT SPREADING THE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE AMONG YUEN LONG RESIDENTS WILL BE HELD AT 7.30 PM ON JANUARY 23 AT THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL.

A TOTAL OF 600 ADMISSION TICKETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL AND THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE.

APART FROM THE VARIETY SHOW WHICH WILL FEATURE POPULAR LOCAL SINGERS, THERE WILL ALSO BE A PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY FOR WINNERS OF THE YUEN LONG GOOD CITIZEN AWARD, FIGHT CRIME POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION AND STICKER DESIGN COMPETITION.

ALL THE WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL UNTIL JANUARY 26.

OFFICIATING AT THE PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY WILL BE YUEN LONG DISTRICT COMMANDER OF THE POLICE, MR T. ORSLER; ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALDAN KWOK; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, MR LEUNG SHUI-FAT.

THE FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN VARIETY SHOW IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL AND THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

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NEW BOOKLET ON ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY HANDLES SOME 1,000 PROJECTS VALUED AT MORE THAN \$26 BILLION.

IT IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF SOME 5,600 BUILDINGS, WHICH GENERATES OVER 200,000 ANNUAL WORKS ITEMS.

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THESE AND OTHER INTERESTING BITS OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT CAN BE FOUND IN A RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKLET.

THE BOOKLET IS ILLUSTRATED WITH COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS AND CHARTS.

IT EXPLAINS HOW THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES ARCHITECTURAL AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES TO SOME 60 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND CARRIES OUT ITS FUNCTION AS THE GOVERNMENT'S PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL ADVISER ON BUILDING MATTERS.

THE BOOKLET ALSO EXPLAINS THE VARIOUS STAGES OF A PROJECT AND THE RESPECTIVE ROLES PLAYED BY ITS MANY PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

PRICED AT \$15 PER COPY, THE BOOKLET IS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE IN GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

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NIGHT CLOSURE OF WATERLOO ROAD

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TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE, THE GROUND-LEVEL SECTION OF WATERLOO ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN ESSEX CRESCENT AND KOWLOON TONG CLUB WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 14) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON BOUNDARY STREET HEADING FOR WATERLOO ROAD AND LION ROCK TUNNEL WILL HAVE TO TRAVEL VIA CUMBERLAND ROAD, RUTLAND QUADRANT AND WATERLOO ROAD.

AS FOR THOSE TRAVELLING ON THE GROUND-LEVEL SECTION OF WATERLOO ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN ESSEX CRESCENT AND BOUNDARY STREET, THEY WILL BE DIVERTED VIA ESSEX CRESCENT AND CUMBERLAND ROAD.

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U-TURN BAN ON WANG CHIU ROAD

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NORTHBOUND VEHICLES TRAVELLING ON A SECTION OF WANG CHIU ROAD IN KOWLOON BAY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAKE U-TURNS ON TO THE SOUTHBOUND LANE FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE AFFECTED ROAD SECTION STARTS FROM THE ENTRANCE OF KAI YIP BUS TERMINUS TO A POINT ABOUT 150 METRES NORTH OF THE ENTRANCE.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 58.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 342.159 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 347.084 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 59.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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