



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1988

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TOTAL COMMITMENT TO AGREEMENT: SIR PERCY

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FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A TALK GIVEN BY SIR PERCY CRADOCK, FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER TO THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, DURING A BBC PROGRAMME, "PERSONAL VIEW", WHICH WAS BROADCAST ON THE BBC WORLD SERVICE IN HONG KONG TODAY (SATURDAY) ON RTHK'S RADIO 5:

THE HONG KONG AGREEMENT OF 1984 BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA, WHICH SETTLED THE FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY, HAS COME UNDER A LOT OF FIRE RECENTLY IN THE BRITISH PRESS. A CROP OF ARTICLES HAVE ASSAILED IT AS AN EXHIBITION OF BRITISH OR FOREIGN OFFICE WEAKNESS, OR UNDUE COMPLIANCE WITH CHINA, OR EVEN AS A BETRAYAL OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. UNIVERSALLY ACCLAIMED AT THE TIME, THE AGREEMENT NOW SEEMS, IF WE JUDGE BY THE PRESS, TO HAVE GONE RATHER SOUR.

IN THIS TALK I SHALL TRY TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE AGREEMENT, HOW IT SEEMED TO THOSE WHO NEGOTIATED IT AND WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS IT HOLDS OUT FOR HONG KONG.

I HAVE TO DECLARE AN INTEREST. I HAVE BEEN VERY CLOSELY INVOLVED. FIRST AS BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN PEKING I LED OUR NEGOTIATING TEAM FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. ON RETURN TO LONDON IN 1984 I WAS, AT OFFICIAL LEVEL, IN CHARGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN DECEMBER OF THAT YEAR. SINCE 1984 AS FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER TO MRS THATCHER I HAVE FOLLOWED DEVELOPMENTS ALMOST AS CLOSELY.

FOR ANYONE LOOKING BACK ON A BIG NEGOTIATION OF THIS KIND THE PAST IS A CURIOUS PATCHWORK. ON THE ONE HAND THERE IS THE OFFICIAL MATERIAL - THE COMMUNIQUES, THE WHITE PAPERS AND THE LIKE. ON THE OTHER THERE ARE THE MORE VIVID PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS. I RECALL FOR EXAMPLE OUR FIRST TENTATIVE APPROACHES TO THE CHINESE IN 1979, WHEN WE WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT UNLESS SOMETHING WAS DONE BUSINESS CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG WOULD SOON FALTER. I RECALL MRS THATCHER'S VISIT TO PEKING IN 1982, WHICH SET THE NEGOTIATION GOING. AND THEN THE HOT SUMMER OF 1983 AND THE FORMAL SESSIONS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY GUEST HOUSE IN PEKING - THE OLD AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN LEGATION - AS WE ARGUED, AS IT TURNED OUT UNAVAILINGLY, FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF BRITISH ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG. I RECALL THE CRITICAL MEETINGS IN LONDON WITH MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PRESENT. BUT PARTICULARLY I REMEMBER THE FIRST DAY OF SIR GEOFFREY HOWE'S VISIT TO PEKING IN LATE JULY 1984 WHEN I WAS ASKED TO A PRIVATE LUNCH WITH THE CHIEF CHINESE NEGOTIATOR AND HEARD HIM PUT TO ME WHAT WAS CLEARLY THE BREAK-THROUGH OFFER. AND THEN RETURNING TO TELL THE FOREIGN SECRETARY - AND HOW WE DISCUSSED IT IN THE GARDEN OF THE GUEST HOUSE - A SMALL, RATHER TENSE GROUP GATHERED UNDER THE SHADE OF A FLOWERING TREE, WITH A SENSE THAT WE WERE AT A CRITICAL POINT, EVEN, AS ONE OF US PUT IT, THAT WE WERE BRUSHED BY THE WIND OF HISTORY.

/AND OF

AND OF COURSE IT WAS A BREAK THROUGH. THOUGH THERE WERE STILL PRODIGIES OF NEGOTIATION TO BE PERFORMED, WE HAD WITHIN 2 MONTHS A COMPLETE AGREEMENT. IT MAY BE WORTHWHILE REMINDING YOU OF ITS MAIN POINTS.

UNTIL 30 JUNE 1997, WHEN THE LEASE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL IN ANY CASE EXPIRE, BRITAIN REMAINS RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG. AFTER THAT DATE HONG KONG BECOMES A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THE REGIME FOR THIS REGION IS SET OUT IN BROAD TERMS IN THE AGREEMENT, BUT IT IS CRUCIALLY SUPPLEMENTED IN THE FIRST ANNEX, WHICH IS A LENGTHY TEXT PRESCRIBING IN GREAT DETAIL THE WAY OF LIFE FOR HONG KONG. IT IS STATED THAT THESE DETAILS WILL BE SET OUT IN A BASIC LAW TO BE PASSED BY THE CHINESE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AND THAT THEY WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED FOR 50 YEARS.

THIS REGIME, SECURED FOR 50 YEARS AFTER 1997, IS AVOWEDLY CAPITALIST. THE ANNEX STATES THAT HONG KONG'S PREVIOUS CAPITALIST SYSTEM AND LIFESTYLE SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED. FOR EXAMPLE, HONG KONG WILL REMAIN A FREE PORT AND A SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY. IT WILL RETAIN ITS FAMILIAR SYSTEM OF LAW. HUMAN RIGHTS ARE SPECIFICALLY PROTECTED BY THE CONTINUED APPLICATION TO HONG KONG OF THE RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS. ALL THIS, AND A GREAT DEAL MORE BESIDES, IS SET OUT IN DETAIL WHICH IS REMARKABLE WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT CHINA WAS THEREBY DELIBERATELY TYING ITS HANDS IN THE CONTROL OF TERRITORY WHICH IT HAD ALWAYS REGARDED AS PART OF CHINA. THESE ELABORATE UNDERTAKINGS ARE ENSHRINED IN AN INTERNATIONALLY BINDING AGREEMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, BY THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS AND BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

TO GET TO THIS TEXT MEANT AN UNPRECEDENTED AND ENORMOUSLY DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION. FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IT WAS UNPRECEDENTED IN THAT, UNLIKE SO MANY NEGOTIATIONS FOR COLONIAL TERRITORIES WE HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR IN THE PAST, IT COULD NOT LEAD FORWARD TO INDEPENDENCE. THAT TRADITIONAL ROAD WAS CLOSED. FOR 92 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY WE WERE DEALING WITH A LEASE WHICH WE RECOGNISED AS VALID AND WHICH TERMINATED IN 1997. THE REMAINING 8 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY WAS UNVIABLE ON ITS OWN. HONG KONG WAS BOUND TO RETURN TO CHINA; THE ONLY QUESTION WAS THE TERMS ON WHICH IT DID SO.

FOR THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IT WAS ALSO UNPRECEDENTED, AND, I SUSPECT, EQUALLY DIFFICULT, IN THAT, AS THEY SAW IT, HONG KONG IS AND ALWAYS WAS THEIR TERRITORY. HOW COULD THEY EVEN EMBARK ON A NEGOTIATION WITH A FOREIGN POWER ON THE FUTURE OF PART OF THEIR OWN LAND?

/THERE WAS

THERE WAS A FURTHER DIFFICULTY. FOR THE CHINESE IT WAS A STRICTLY BILATERAL NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE TWO METROPOLITAN POWERS. FOR US ON THE BRITISH SIDE IT WAS TRIANGULAR, THE THIRD PARTY BEING HONG KONG. WE ESTABLISHED FROM THE OUTSET THE PRINCIPLE THAT OUR COMMON OBJECTIVE WAS THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG AND WE INSISTED THAT ANY SETTLEMENT HAD TO BE ACCEPTABLE NOT ONLY TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND TO THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT BUT ALSO TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AND IN THE END OF COURSE WE FORMALLY ASKED THEM WHETHER THEY ACCEPTED THE RESULT. TO US ON THE BRITISH SIDE AT ALL THE TURNING POINTS THIS WAS THE YARDSTICK: WHAT WOULD BE BEST FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND OF COMMITMENT THE PRESENT CRITICISMS OF THE AGREEMENT MAY SEEM VERY STRANGE. BUT IT IS NECESSARY TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND THEM. THERE ARE I THINK 3 KINDS. I SHALL TAKE THEM IN ASCENDING ORDER OF GLOOM. FIRST THERE ARE THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS FINE BUT THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN FOLLOWED UP. SECOND, THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THE AGREEMENT WILL NOT WORK IN ANY CASE. FINALLY, THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARGUE IN A MORE SWEEPING FORM AND, FORGETTING ABOUT THE AGREEMENT ALTOGETHER, SAY THAT ESSENTIALLY WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IS AN UNQUALIFIED HANDOVER OF NEARLY 6 MILLION PEOPLE TO COMMUNIST RULE.

FIRST, THE MORE LIMITED COMPLAINTS. AMONG THEM IS THE CLAIM THAT THE BASIC LAW BEING DRAFTED BY THE CHINESE AS THE CONSTITUTION FOR HONG KONG DOES NOT PROPERLY REFLECT THE 1984 AGREEMENT. THIS IS UNTRUE, THOUGH AS A REMINDER OF THE NEED FOR VIGILANCE IT MAY SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE. THE AGREEMENT CLEARLY LAYS DOWN THAT THE PRINCIPLES AND DETAILS SET OUT IN IT WILL BE STIPULATED IN THE BASIC LAW. AND WE HAVE A RIGHT AND DUTY TO ENSURE THAT THIS IS DONE ACCURATELY. THE BASIC LAW IN ITS PRESENT FORM IS IN DRAFT AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ARE SEEKING HONG KONG'S VIEWS ON IT. IT IS NOT PERFECT - WHAT DRAFT IS - BUT ALMOST ALL ITS PROVISIONS FAITHFULLY CORRESPOND TO THE AGREEMENT AND IN OTHER CASES WE ARE SEEKING IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH A RANGE OF CONTACTS WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES. THIS IS WORK IN PROGRESS.

ANOTHER COMPLAINT IS THAT WE HAVE ABANDONED OUR UNDERTAKING TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY IN HONG KONG, WHICH, IT IS ARGUED, IS THE ONLY PROTECTION AGAINST THE EXPECTED CHINESE OPPRESSION. IN FACT THERE IS A STEADY EVOLUTION TOWARDS A MORE REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND THE RATE CORRESPONDS TO THE WISHES OF THE MAJORITY OF HONG KONG PEOPLE. THE PRINCIPLE OF DIRECT ELECTIONS IS NOW ENSHRINED IN THE BASIC LAW AND CHINESE OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IS ONE MAN ONE VOTE.

/BUT THE

BUT, THE CRITICS CONTINUE, THE AGREEMENT WILL NOT HOLD. BEHIND THIS THEME LIES THE INSTINCTIVE FEAR THAT CHINA WILL NOT KEEP HER WORD. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE FOR IT: THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN METICULOUS TO DATE. AND THOUGH NOTHING IS CERTAIN IN OUR WORLD, I AM SURE THE CHANCES OF IT HAPPENING IN THE FUTURE ARE REMOTE. FOR THE VERY BEST OF REASONS: HONOURING THE AGREEMENT IS IN CHINA'S BEST INTERESTS. TO BREACH A HIGH PROFILE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WOULD DO HER REPUTATION IMMENSE HARM, WOULD DENY THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF A DYNAMIC CAPITALIST ENCLAVE AND WOULD FATALLY SET BACK THE HOPES FOR RECOVERING THE OTHER LOST TERRITORY, TAIWAN.

FINALLY, WE COME TO THE THIRD CATEGORY OF COMPLAINTS AND HERE I'M AFRAID WE TAKE LEAVE OF REALITY ALTOGETHER. THE AGREEMENT IS FORGOTTEN OR BRUSHED ASIDE AND WE FACE CHARGES THAT WE ARE HANDING OVER SOME 5.6 MILLION PEOPLE TO THE RIGOURS OF COMMUNIST RULE. NOW THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SOME JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS COMPLAINT IF WE HAD DONE NOTHING AT ALL AND SIMPLY ALLOWED THE LEASE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES TO RUN OUT AND HONG KONG AS A WHOLE TO PASS WITHOUT RESERVATION INTO PEKING'S CONTROL. BUT OF COURSE OUR WHOLE EFFORT HAS BEEN ADDRESSED TO THE CONTRARY AIM AND THE MOST ELABORATE SAFEGUARDS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN A BINDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE ECONOMY AND LIFESTYLE OF HONG KONG AND THE RIGHTS OF ITS PEOPLE ARE PRESERVED. THAT IS THE VERY ANTITHESIS OF BETRAYAL.

AS PART OF THIS SAME ARGUMENT THAT A TOTAL DISASTER IS IMPENDING WE ARE SOMETIMES URGED TO LAUNCH A LIFEBOAT SCHEME TO PERMIT AS MANY AS POSSIBLE OF HONG KONG'S INHABITANTS TO SETTLE IN BRITAIN AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. BUT THIS WHOLLY OVERLOOKS THE WISH OF HONG KONG CITIZENS TO LIVE AND FLOURISH IN THEIR OWN CITY AND THEIR CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS TO DATE IN DOING SO. HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT HAS AFTER ALL GONE UP 30 PER CENT IN THE LAST 3 YEARS. TO MAKE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WOULD ALSO BE A SIGNAL ACT OF DEFEATISM AND COMING FROM BRITAIN NOTHING WOULD BE BETTER CALCULATED TO UNDERMINE THE CONFIDENCE AND PROSPERITY WE HAVE HELPED TO BUILD UP. WE DO NOT REGARD HONG KONG AS A DISASTER AREA, NOR DO ITS INHABITANTS.

WINSTON CHURCHILL SAID ONCE THAT HE DID NOT RESENT CRITICISM EVEN WHEN FOR THE SAKE OF EMPHASIS IT PARTED FOR THE TIME WITH REALITY. IT IS A GOOD SAYING, BUT HE MIGHT HAVE ADDED THAT IT IS MORE HELPFUL WHEN THE CRITICISM IS NOT ALTOGETHER IN THE REALMS OF FANTASY. IT IS NATURAL AND RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD LOOK BACK FROM TIME TO TIME ON A MAJOR TRANSACTION LIKE THE HONG KONG AGREEMENT AND ASK OURSELVES SEARCHINGLY WHETHER IT WAS WELL DONE. LOOKING BACK MYSELF, I THINK IT WAS. I ALSO THINK THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS - FOR WORK ON IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT GOES ON ALL THE TIME - ARE ALSO BEING WELL DONE. IT IS AN UNPRECEDENTED AND DELICATE OPERATION, AND IT IS BOUND TO PRESENT PROBLEMS FROM TIME TO TIME. BUT THE CHINESE ARE SCRUPULOUS IN HONOURING THE AGREEMENT; ON THE BRITISH SIDE THERE REMAINS TOTAL COMMITMENT; AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE I AM SURE WILL CONTINUE TO DO THEIR PART. IN AN IMPERFECT WORLD I DO NOT THINK WE COULD HAVE PROVIDED THEM WITH BETTER SAFEGUARDS FOR THEIR FUTURE AND IF WE MANAGE THE TRANSITION RIGHT, AS I THINK WE SHALL, I BELIEVE WE SHALL BE ABLE TO LOOK BACK IN 1997 AND BEYOND WITH A GOOD CONSCIENCE AND THE SENSE OF WORK SATISFACTORILY DONE. IT MAY NOT PROVIDE SUCH DRAMATIC COPY FOR THE PRESS, BUT THAT IS A DIFFERENT MATTER.

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HK'S TRANSPORT SYSTEM IS CAREFULLY PLANNED

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HONG KONG'S EFFICIENT HIGHWAY AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM IS A RESULT OF CAREFUL AND THOROUGH ADVANCE PLANNING BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING ON "TRANSPORT PLANNING IN HONG KONG" AT A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY MEETING POINT, MR LEUNG SAID THAT DESPITE OCCASIONAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT CONGESTION, HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT SYSTEM WAS EFFICIENT.

THE SYSTEM WAS COMPARABLE IF NOT BETTER THAN THOSE OF MANY OTHER CITIES OF THE WORLD GIVEN HONG KONG'S VERY HIGH POPULATION DENSITY.

MR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE YEARS THE GOVERNMENT HAD INVESTED BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON MASSIVE AND AMBITIOUS PROJECTS - ALL PLANNED AND IMPLEMENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VARIOUS LONG TERM ROAD AND RAIL STUDIES AND THE 1979 WHITE PAPER ON INTERNAL TRANSPORT POLICY.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES AS A CONSEQUENCE WERE EXPANDED CONSIDERABLY THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

THE TRAVEL DEMAND, NOW RUNNING AT 9.4 MILLION DAILY PASSENGERS, CONTINUED TO GROW.

MR LEUNG ALSO EMPHASISED THE FACT THAT NONE OF THE MULTIFARIOUS PUBLIC TRANSPORT MODES IN OPERATION TODAY REQUIRED SUBSIDY FROM THE TAXPAYER FOR THEIR OPERATION.

SUCH CHARACTERISTICS REFLECTED THE SUCCESSFUL COMBINATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES AND GOVERNMENT CO-ORDINATION AND MONITORING, WHICH HE STRESSED, "WE INTEND TO PRESERVE AS WE GO ON DEVELOPING OUR TRANSPORT SYSTEM."

MR LEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE WITH PLANS TO EXPAND THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE BEING IDENTIFIED BY THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY (CTS-2).

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SOME OF THE PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION INCLUDED:

- * ROUTE 3. THIS ROUTE WOULD EXTEND FROM THE BORDER AND THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES THROUGH TSING YI TO WEST KOWLOON AND THEN TO WESTERN HONG KONG ISLAND VIA THE THIRD HARBOUR CROSSING.

IT WOULD COMPLEMENT THE EXISTING TUEN MUN HIGHWAY AND WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR WHICH WERE PREDICTED TO BE AT CAPACITY BY THE MID-1990'S.

- * THE JUNK BAY MTR EXTENSION AND THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES RAIL LINK TO TUEN MUN OR YUEN LONG.

THESE PROPOSED RAIL EXTENSIONS WOULD CONNECT THE FAST GROWING NEW TOWNS IN TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG AND JUNK BAY TO THE URBAN AREA.

- * A LIGHT RAIL LINK CONNECTING MA ON SHAN TO TAI WAI AND FURTHER TO DIAMOND HILL.

IN VIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW POPULATION ALONG THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY LINE IN NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES, IT WAS DEEMED NECESSARY TO MAKE FURTHER LINKS AVAILABLE BY THE MIDDLE OR LATE 1990'S TO MEET INCREASING TRANSPORT DEMANDS.

- * A THIRD HARBOUR RAIL CROSSING.

IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE TWO RAIL LINKS ACROSS THE HARBOUR (TSIM SHA TSUI TO ADMIRALTY AND LAM TIN TO QUARRY BAY) WOULD BE FULL BY THE MID-1990'S.

CTS-2 WOULD PROVIDE USEFUL INFORMATION TO HELP DETERMINE HOW AND WHEN THIS LINK SHOULD BE PROVIDED.

MR LEUNG SAID THAT APART FROM PREPARING DETAILED ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, THE CTS-2 WAS ALSO TASKED TO REVIEW TRANSPORT PLANS AND POLICIES UP TO THE YEAR 2001.

IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE A COMPUTERISED TRANSPORT MODEL WHICH WAS CAPABLE OF BEING UPDATED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FUTURE CHANGES IN POLICIES, PLANS AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

BUT DESPITE THE MASSIVE AND AMBITIOUS PROJECTS THERE WAS A LIMIT AS TO BY HOW MUCH CONGESTION COULD BE REDUCED AND MOBILITY IMPROVED BY CONSTRUCTING NEW ROADS AND RAILWAYS, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONGESTED URBAN AREAS, MR LEUNG SAID.

"CONTINUED APPLICATION OF VARIOUS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND ENGINEERING MEASURES IS THEREFORE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MAXIMISE THE USE OF EXISTING ROAD SPACE," HE SAID.

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"ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS STOPPING RESTRICTIONS, ONE-WAY SYSTEMS, BUS ONLY LANES AND BUS PRIORITY SCHEMES, SEGREGATING PEDESTRIAN FROM VEHICULAR TRAFFIC, AND LIMITING ON-STREET PARKING WILL BE ADOPTED WHENEVER PRACTICABLE."

FURTHER REGULATORY MEASURES WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY TO KEEP THE DEMAND FOR TRAVEL TO A MANAGEABLE LEVEL.

BUT HOW AND BY WHAT MEANS TO ACHIEVE AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF DEMAND WOULD BE EXAMINED AND DISCUSSED IN THE CONTEXT OF CTS-2 WHICH IT WAS HOPED WOULD BE READY EARLY NEXT YEAR.

BASED ON THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THAT REPORT, A GREEN PAPER WOULD BE PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION BEFORE JUNE.

MR LEUNG SAID HE FORESAW CONFLICTING VIEWS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS ON THE WAYS AND MEANS TO REDUCE CONGESTION AND MAINTAIN MOBILITY.

"THE OBJECTIVE IS CLEAR BUT THE MEANS OF ACHIEVING IT ARE NOT NECESSARILY SO.

"I HOPE THE GREEN PAPER WILL SERVE AS A FORUM FOR MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION AND DEBATE AND PROVIDE A BASIS TO RECONCILE CONFLICTING INTERESTS," HE SAID.

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LEAFLETS ON "MEET-THE-PUBLIC" SCHEME AND "DB FUNDS"
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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAS PRODUCED TWO LEAFLETS INFORMING RESIDENTS THAT THEY CAN MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN VIA THE "MEET-THE-PUBLIC" SCHEME AS WELL AS HELP TO IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE BY MAKING USE OF "DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS".

A SPOKESMAN FOR CNTA SAID THE LEAFLET ON "MEET-THE-PUBLIC" SCHEME WAS AIMED AT PROMOTING THE SERVICE AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME.

HE SAID THE SCHEME ENABLED RESIDENTS TO DISCUSS WITH THEIR DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS SUBJECT THAT AFFECTED THEM, THEIR FAMILY AND THEIR DISTRICT.

"OVER THE YEARS, THE SCHEME HAS PROVEN TO BE ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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"TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON LOCAL ISSUES, THE LEAFLET OUTLINED THE PURPOSE OF THE 'MEET-THE-PUBLIC' SCHEME AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MAKING AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET THE DB MEMBERS ON DUTY."

TURNING TO THE LEAFLET ON "DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS", THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT EACH DISTRICT WAS ALLOCATED PUBLIC FUNDS ANNUALLY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS UPON THE ADVICE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD CONCERNED.

THE FUNDS WERE PROVIDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF OFFERING PROMPT REMEDY TO URGENT LOCAL PROBLEMS AS WELL AS FOR THE ORGANISATION OF DISTRICT-BASED ACTIVITIES AIMED AT FOSTERING COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND SOCIAL COHESION, HE ADDED.

"THE LEAFLET EXPLAINS THE USE OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS AND SPELLS OUT THE KIND OF ORGANISATIONS AND NATURE OF PROJECTS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR APPLYING FOR THE FUNDS AS WELL AS THE APPLICATION PROCEDURES," HE SAID.

THE TWO LEAFLETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT THE 67 PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SECTION IN CNTA HEADQUARTERS AT 13TH FLOOR, WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, HARBOUR CITY, 7 CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON.

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HOLIDAYMAKERS URGED TO BE MORE CO-OPERATIVE

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THE ISLANDS DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR LAM WAI-KEUNG, TODAY (SATURDAY) URGED HOLIDAY FLAT RENTERS AND OWNERS IN THE DISTRICT TO EXERCISE A HIGHER DEGREE OF SELF-DISCIPLINE SO AS TO CONTAIN PROBLEMS GENERATED FROM TOURISM DEVELOPMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE JOINT OPENING CEREMONY OF THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN AND ANTI-TRIAD CAMPAIGN, MR LAM SAID: "PROBLEMS ARISING FROM HOLIDAY FLATS DO EXIST BUT THEY ARE NOT SO SERIOUS THAT LEGISLATIVE CONTROL IS CALL FOR."

"CREATING NOISE AND NUISANCE, UNRULY BEHAVIOUR OF OCCUPANTS AND OVERCROWDING ARE USUAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE POLICE IN RELATION TO HOLIDAY FLATS," HE SAID.

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"IF THE HOLIDAY MAKERS ARE WILLING TO EXERCISE SELF-CONTROL AND THE HOLIDAY FLAT OWNERS ARE CO-OPERATIVE IN STRENGTHENING THEIR MANAGEMENT, THE PROBLEMS CAN EASILY BE SOLVED," HE SAID.

MR LAM SAID THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED BY THE DFCC AND MEETINGS WERE HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT WITH HOLIDAY FLAT OWNERS TO LAY DOWN SELF-REGULATORY RULES TO TACKLE THE PROBLEMS.

HE URGED THE OWNERS TO ADHERE TO THOSE RULES SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT NEED NOT RESORT TO LEGISLATIVE CONTROL WHICH MIGHT HINDER TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND AFFECT THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE ISLANDERS.

HUNDREDS OF ISLANDERS AND HOLIDAY MAKERS ATTENDED THE JOINT OPENING CEREMONY AND THE CHEUNG CHAU POLICE STATION OPEN DAY THIS AFTERNOON.

AN EXHIBITION SHOWING VARIOUS POLICE WORKS WAS MOUNTED AND GAME STALLS SPREADING FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE WERE SET UP.

THE OPEN DAY WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW (SUNDAY) FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM WHERE ENTERTAINMENT LIKE DEMONSTRATION BY POLICE DOGS, FOOT DRILLS AND A TAEKWANDO DISPLAY WILL BE PROVIDED.

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SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS SALE BY AUCTION

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FORTY SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS WERE PUT UP FOR AUCTION THIS MORNING (SATURDAY) FOR A TOTAL OF \$779,000 WHICH WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY PURPOSES.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE RECITAL HALL OF THE CITY HALL, SAW THE REGISTRATION NUMBER CS 100 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF \$66,000.

ANOTHER NUMBER AB 233 WAS SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF \$61,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS \$ 1,000 FOR DX379.

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FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S AUCTION:

	\$		\$		\$		\$
DV1633	7,000	DU132	6,000	DX9328	11,000	DD1118	38,000
DX379	1,000	DX1129	2,000	AR2000	36,000	DK999	WITHDRAWN
DK909	12,000	AB233	61,000	DX339	21,000	AJ263	19,000
DY1231	4,000	DX119	6,000	DX1628	23,000	DX8188	15,000
DX3378	4,000	AA1828	44,000	DD2233	55,000	DW1123	18,000
DY111	35,000	DK7744	4,000	DX3288	36,000	DY787	25,000
DW9998	9,000	DW638	32,000	AL189	22,000	DX997	5,000
DX3218	10,000	DX116	8,000	XX802	23,000	CS100	66,000
DD1188	25,000	DD92	30,000	DX1283	8,000	DX3279	3,000
DX219	3,000	BL155	17,000	AA935	29,000	DX105	6,000

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

THE NUMBERS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITH 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

TODAY'S SALE, THE 132ND ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR CHARITY REALISED SO FAR TO \$68,172,032.

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MONG KOK "RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY CAMPAIGN 88"
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MONG KOK'S "RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY CAMPAIGN 88", WHICH AIMS AT AROUSING THE COMMUNITY'S CONCERN AND CARE FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE, WILL BE HELD FROM DECEMBER 1 TO 18.

SPONSORED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD, THE CAMPAIGN CONSISTS OF PERSONAL SERVICES, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE ELDERLIES.

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THERE WILL ALSO BE A PUBLICITY DRIVE TO REMIND THE PUBLIC OF THE NEED TO SHOW CONCERN AND RESPECT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE DISTRICT.

A PREFERENTIAL SCHEME PARTICIPATED BY ABOUT 20 BUSINESS CONCERNS, INCLUDING DEPARTMENT STORES, HERBAL SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS, WILL BENEFIT 20,000 ELDERLY PEOPLE LIVING IN THE DISTRICT.

EACH ONE OF THEM WILL BE ISSUED WITH A PREFERENTIAL DISCOUNT CARD WHEN PATRONISING THESE BUSINESSES. THE CARDS, EFFECTIVE FOR ONE TO 12 MONTHS, WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FROM DECEMBER 1.

A HIGHLIGHT OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE A "SPORTS DAY FOR THE ELDERLY" TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 18 (SUNDAY) AT THE MONG KOK SPORTS GROUND AT BOUNDARY STREET.

A SERIES OF BALL GAMES AND SPORTS EVENTS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY DESIGNED FOR THE ELDERLIES TO TAKE PART IN MILD PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES.

IN ADDITION, A CANTONESE OPERA IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 9 (FRIDAY) AT THE CHAN HING COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTRE TO PROVIDE THE ELDERLIES WITH ENTERTAINMENT.

DURING THE PUBLICITY DRIVE ON CONCERN AND RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLIES, POSTERS WILL BE PUT UP AT BUS STOPS AND INSIDE THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATIONS AT MONG KOK AND PRINCE EDWARD TO DRIVE THE MESSAGE HOME.

ANOTHER ACTIVITY OF THE PUBLICITY DRIVE WAS A SLOGAN DESIGN COMPETITION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHICH WAS HELD EARLIER.

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LEISURE SERVICES DOCUMENT ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS A PAPER ON THE PROVISION OF DISTRICT LEISURE SERVICES AT A MEETING ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 28).

THE CHIEF MANAGER FOR LEISURE SERVICES OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR R.F. POLLARD, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE CRITERIA AND CONCERNS OBSERVED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL IN THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC LEISURE SERVICES.

HE WILL ALSO OUTLINE THE PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

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IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER ALLOCATING FUNDS FOR ORGANISING A SEMINAR FOR THE DISTRICT'S SEVEN AREA COMMITTEES TO DISCUSS VARIOUS ISSUES.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE FUND APPLICATIONS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS FOR HOLDING COMMUNITY PROJECTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 28) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE, NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

PLEASE NOTE THAT DISCUSSION ON APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS WILL NOT BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

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CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS CONCLUSION OF DISTRICT ARTS FESTIVAL
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THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT ARTS FESTIVAL '88 CAME TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION WITH A CHINESE ORCHESTRAL CONCERT HELD IN THE NGAI CHI WAN CIVIC THEATRE THIS (SATURDAY) EVENING.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL AND THE URBAN COUNCIL WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD AND SIK SIK YUEN, THE FESTIVAL FEATURED 23 DIFFERENT CULTURAL EVENTS DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

SPEAKING AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY, WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NG HON-WAH, SAID THAT THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL, IN ORGANISING THE FESTIVAL, NOT ONLY BOOSTED THE DISTRICT'S ARTISTIC ATMOSPHERE, BUT ALSO ACTIVELY ENDEAVOURED TO RAISE RESIDENTS' APPRECIATION OF ARTS.

NOTING THAT PROMOTION OF ARTS WAS A LONG-TERM PROJECT REQUIRING SUSTAINED EFFORTS BEFORE SUCCESS WAS IN SIGHT, HE SAID THE FESTIVAL HAD STIMULATED CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN WONG TAI SIN INTO MATURITY.

"I HOPE THAT IN THE FUTURE MORE SIMILAR ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD TO FURTHER PROMOTE CULTURE IN THE DISTRICT," HE ADDED.

DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, DR LEE YUK-KWAN, SAID THAT THE BOARD WAS ENDEAVOURING TO PROMOTE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT WITH REGULAR ACTIVITIES.

CO-OPERATION WITH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING A SENSE OF BELONGING AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS, WAS ALSO AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE DB'S EFFORTS, HE SAID.

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KWAI TSING SPORTS FESTIVAL ENDS TOMORROW

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THE MONTH-LONG KWAI TSING SPORTS FESTIVAL WILL CONCLUDE TOMORROW (SUNDAY) WITH A CLOSING CEREMONY AT THE KWAI CHUNG HING FONG ROAD PLAYGROUND.

RESIDENTS ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE CEREMONY TO BE FOLLOWED BY A DISCO NIGHT FROM 7.30 PM WITH PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR SINGERS AND LUCKY DRAWS.

ORGANISED WITH A BUDGET OF \$700,000, THE SPORTS FESTIVAL WAS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, KWAI TSING DISTRICT CULTURE AND ARTS CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION AND REGIONAL COUNCIL TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN SPORTING ACTIVITIES.

THE FESTIVAL HAD ATTRACTED ABOUT 50,000 PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN MORE THAN 30 EVENTS.

ACTIVITIES ORGANISED UNDER THE FESTIVAL INCLUDED TENNIS, MINI-TENNIS, SOCCER, BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, BADMINTON, BOWLING AND TABLE-TENNIS COMPETITIONS, ATHLETIC EVENTS, ARCHERY AND ROLLER SKATING FUN DAYS AS WELL AS A HANDICAPPED AND ABLE-BODIED FUN DAY.

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DAY CAMP FOR THE ELDERLY

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ABOUT 1,000 ELDERLY RESIDENTS FROM KWUN TONG DISTRICT WILL TAKE PART IN A DAY CAMP AT THE WU KAI SHA YOUTH VILLAGE ON DECEMBER 3 (SATURDAY).

THE FUNCTION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD AND THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT ELDERLY SERVICE COORDINATING COMMITTEE, IS PART OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE 10TH FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY.

"THE OBJECTIVE IS TO ENHANCE THE SENIOR CITIZENS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT AND THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING.

"IT ALSO HELPS TO ENRICH THE ELDERLY'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE, DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIALS AS WELL AS PROMOTE CO-OPERATION AMONG AGENCIES SERVING THE ELDERLY IN THE DISTRICT," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE SAID.

THERE WILL BE FILM SHOWS, GAMES STALLS, DRAMA AND DANCING BY THE ELDERLY AND TALKS ON TOPICAL ISSUES.

THE REGIONAL OFFICER (EAST KOWLOON) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR LOK MAN-PAN, AND CHAIRMAN OF KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE, MISS MONA LO, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CAMP OPENING CEREMONY AT 2 PM.

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NEW FOOTBRIDGES FOR CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST TO BE OPENED

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THE MORRISON STREET FOOTBRIDGE AND THE TUNG HING LANE FOOTBRIDGE WILL BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 28).

THE TWO NEW FOOTBRIDGES CROSS CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST AND ARE LOCATED BETWEEN MORRISON STREET AND DES VOEUX ROAD WEST.

THE SOUTHERN STAIRCASE OF THE MORRISON STREET FOOTBRIDGE IS LOCATED WITHIN ON TAI STREET, WHILE THE NORTHERN STAIRCASE IS LOCATED AT THE SOUTH EAST CORNER OF THE NEW BUS TERMINUS IMMEDIATELY WEST OF SHUN TAK CENTRE.

THE SOUTHERN END OF THE TUNG HING LANE FOOTBRIDGE CONNECTS DIRECTLY INTO THE WAYSON COMMERCIAL BUILDING.

THE FOOTBRIDGE ALSO EXTENDS BEYOND A STAIRCASE IN THE NORTHERN FOOTPATH OF CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST TO THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE NEW BUS TERMINUS, WHERE A FURTHER STAIRCASE IS LOCATED.

THE WESTBOUND AND EASTBOUND TRAM STOPS IN FRONT OF THE WAYSON COMMERCIAL BUILDING ARE SERVED BY STAIRCASES FROM BOTH FOOTBRIDGES.

THE TWO EXISTING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING CONTROL LIGHTS LOCATED IMMEDIATELY WEST OF CLEVERLY STREET IN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND EAST OF THE TUNG HING LANE FOOTBRIDGE IN CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST WILL BE REMOVED WHEN THE FOOTBRIDGES ARE OPENED.

THE MORRISON STREET FOOTBRIDGE AND THE TUNG HING LANE FOOTBRIDGE ARE APPROXIMATELY 70 METRES AND 110 METRES IN LENGTH RESPECTIVELY.

BOTH FOOTBRIDGES WERE CONSTRUCTED BY PAUL Y. CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD., FOR THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, AS PART OF THE UPGRADED CONNAUGHT ROAD PROJECT, AT A COMBINED COST OF ABOUT \$8.1 MILLION.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON HK ISLAND

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 28), THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF YUE KWONG ROAD IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT FROM ITS EASTERN JUNCTION WITH ABERDEEN RESERVOIR ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 60 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BECOME A DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK FOR ROADWORKS.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, ALL BUSES AND GOODS VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN FROM TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD TO COMFORT TERRACE IN EASTERN DISTRICT ALSO FOR ROADWORKS.

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RIGHT-TURN BAN ON PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ADVISED MOTORISTS THAT FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 29), VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT FROM PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST EASTBOUND ONTO LOMOND ROAD.

THE RIGHT-TURN BAN WILL LAST FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ARGYLE STREET/LOMOND ROAD JUNCTION.

AFFECTED VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE ROUNDABOUT AT THE JUNCTION OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST WITH ARGYLE STREET, AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST WESTBOUND.

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