



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1984

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HK GROUP DEPARTS FOR PEKING

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THE HONG KONG DELEGATION TO THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA DEPARTED TODAY (SATURDAY) FOR PEKING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS PRIOR TO BOARDING AT KAI TAK, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID: +I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HOW MUCH WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS TRIP TO PEKING ON THIS OCCASION. THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE FOUNDING OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS, OF COURSE, A VERY SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN CHINA. I AM GREATLY HONOURED TO BE LEADING THIS DELEGATION TO THESE CELEBRATIONS, PARTICULARLY AS I HAVEN'T BEEN TO PEKING SINCE 1980 WHEN I VISITED PEKING, CANTON AND SHANGHAI AS FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND I AM THEREFORE GREATLY LOOKING FORWARD TO VISITING THOSE PLACES THAT I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO VISIT ON MY LAST TRIP. WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU WHEN WE RETURN.+

LEADING THE OFFICIALS WAS SIR PHILIP AND LEADING THE UNOFFICIALS WAS THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR S.Y. CHUNG.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY ARE: MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION; MR E.P. HO, SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY; MR DONALD LIAO, SECRETARY FOR HOUSING; MISS CHEUNG MAN-YEE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT; MR RICHARD MARGOLIS, DEPUTY POLITICAL ADVISER AND MISS VIVIEN FONG, INTERPRETER.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNOFFICIAL PARTY ARE: MR ROGER LOBO, SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; MR MICHAEL SANDBERG, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL; AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR FRANCIS TIEN YUAN-HO, MR WONG LAM, DR HO KAM-FAI, MR ALLEN LEE PENG-FEI, MR HU FA-KUANG, MR WONG PO-YAN AND MR KEITH LAM HON-KEUNG.

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MONEY SUPPLY UP

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BOTH THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY AND THE TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY ROSE ON ALL DEFINITIONS IN AUGUST 1984, ACCORDING TO MONETARY STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE FELL, WHILE OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG ONCE AGAIN SHOWED ONLY A MARGINAL INCREASE.

DEPOSITS

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS ROSE BY 2.6 PER CENT IN AUGUST, AGAINST A FALL OF ONE PER CENT IN JULY. THEY SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 3.3 PER CENT OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST, AND 27.2 PER CENT OVER THE 12 MONTHS.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED marginally, BY 0.4 PER CENT. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST, THE INCREASE WAS FOUR PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS THE INCREASE WAS 23.7 PER CENT.

TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH BANKS ROSE BY 1.7 PER CENT IN AUGUST, AGAINST A FALL OF TWO PER CENT IN JULY, WHILE TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCREASED BY ONLY 0.8 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH AN INCREASE OF 7.7 PER CENT IN JULY.

THUS THE SHIFT IN DEPOSITS FROM BANKS TO DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES OBSERVED IN EARLIER MONTHS CAME TO A HALT IN AUGUST.

HOWEVER, REFLECTING THE SHIFT IN EARLIER MONTHS, THE GROWTH RATE OF TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH BANKS IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST, AT 0.9 PER CENT, WAS STILL MUCH BELOW THAT OF TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, AT 14.8 PER CENT.

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS INCREASED, WITH HK\$M1 (THE NARROWEST DEFINITION) RISING BY 1.8 PER CENT, HK\$M2 BY 3.4 PER CENT AND HK\$M3 BY 2.6 PER CENT. THESE WERE IN CONTRAST TO THEIR RESPECTIVE DECREASES OF 5.7 PER CENT, 3.6 PER CENT AND 1.3 PER CENT IN JULY.

IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST, HK\$M1 WAS 3.3 PER CENT LOWER, WHILE HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 ROSE BY 0.8 PER CENT AND 2.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THEIR CORRESPONDING INCREASES OVER THE 12 MONTHS WERE FIVE PER CENT, 15.9 PER CENT AND 24.6 PER CENT.

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY

INCREASES OF TWO PER CENT, 1.7 PER CENT AND 1.5 PER CENT WERE RECORDED FOR TOTAL M1, TOTAL M2 AND TOTAL M3 RESPECTIVELY IN AUGUST, AGAINST THEIR CORRESPONDING DECREASES OF 4.6 PER CENT, TWO PER CENT AND 0.1 PER CENT IN JULY.

IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST, TOTAL M1 FELL BY 1.8 PER CENT, WHILE TOTAL M2 AND TOTAL M3 ROSE 0.9 PER CENT AND 3.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE 12 MONTHS, THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES WERE 7.1 PER CENT, 16 PER CENT AND 24.3 PER CENT.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCREASED BY ONLY 0.5 PER CENT IN AUGUST, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 1.2 PER CENT IN JULY. THE INCREASE IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST WAS 2.1 PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS 10.2 PER CENT.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE DECREASED BY 2.3 PER CENT IN AUGUST, BUT SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 4.5 PER CENT OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST AND 18.8 PER CENT OVER THE 12 MONTHS.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG CONTINUED TO RISE ONLY marginally, BY 0.1 PER CENT. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST THE INCREASE WAS 1.7 PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS THE INCREASE WAS ONLY 4.6 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

THE NET SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY LIABILITIES OF THE MONETARY SECTOR FELL SHARPLY TO \$6.8 BILLION AT THE END OF AUGUST, FROM \$12.2 BILLION AT THE END OF JULY. STATISTICS COLLECTED (ON THE BASIS OF SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS) BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES SHOWED AN EVEN SHARPER DECREASE, OF \$9.7 BILLION TO \$8.0 BILLION. THIS FALL IN NET SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY LIABILITIES WAS MATCHED BY A REDUCTION IN NET FORWARD FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS OF THE MONETARY SECTOR, BY \$8.8 BILLION TO \$28.3 BILLION

LIQUIDITY RATIO

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S.18 OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE) FOR ALL BANKS WAS 49.3 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 50.8 PER CENT IN JULY.

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S.24A OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE) FOR ALL DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ALSO FELL SLIGHTLY, TO 46.6 PER CENT FROM 47.5 PER CENT IN JULY.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF OPERATING LICENSED BANKS ROSE BY ONE TO 136, WHILE THE NUMBER OF OPERATING LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 30. THE NUMBER OF REPORTING REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE BY ONE TO 318.

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TWO MPS DUE

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TWO MPS, MR RUSSELL JOHNSTON (LIBERAL) AND MR ANDREW FAULDS (LABOUR) WILL ARRIVE TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON FOR A VISIT.

DURING THEIR STAY, THEY WILL MEET UMELCO AND URBAN COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT STAFF ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES, MEMBERS OF THE MODEL SCALE 1 STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL AND A GROUP OF DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

THE TWO MPS WILL VISIT SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT, THE CHI MA WAN CLOSED CENTRE FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, AN ELECTRONICS FACTORY AND A HOUSING ESTATE.

MR JOHNSTON WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 6 AND MR FAULDS ON OCTOBER 9.

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HK SEEKS BEST DEAL FROM U.S. GSP SCHEME

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+THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WAS FIGHTING FOR THE BEST DEAL FOR HONG KONG IN THE NEW U.S. GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES WHICH MIGHT COME INTO EFFECT IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR, + DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, U.S. LEGISLATORS IN BOTH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE HAD PROPOSED DIFFERENT BILLS TO REPLACE THE EXISTING GSP.

MR TSANG SAID: +THE LATEST US GSP RENEWAL BILL UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONTAINS CERTAIN DANGEROUS FEATURES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES EXPORTING INTO THE US. +

+THIS BILL, WHICH PASSED THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE IN THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 26, PROPOSES TO DIVIDE IMPORTING COUNTRIES INTO THREE TIERS ACCORDING TO THEIR PER CAPITA GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT (GNP).

+IMPORTING COUNTRIES IN THE TOP TIER WITH PER CAPITA GNP \$9 000 OR ABOVE WILL BE 'GRADUATED' OUT OF THE GSP. COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE TIER, WHICH INCLUDE HONG KONG, SINGAPORE AND OTHERS, ARE THOSE HAVING A PER CAPITA GNP OF BETWEEN US\$5 000 AND \$9 000. A COUNTRY IN THIS GROUP WHOSE IMPORT OF ANY ELIGIBLE ARTICLE EXCEEDS US\$25 MILLION OR 25 PER CENT OF THE IMPORT SHARE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FOR BENEFITS IN RESPECT OF THAT ARTICLE UNDER THE GSP.

/+DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

+DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE BOTTOM TIER, I.E., THOSE WITH LESS THAN US\$5 000 PER CAPITA GNP, WILL ENJOY MOST BENEFITS UNDER THIS PROPOSED GSP. SEVERAL KEEN COMPETITORS OF HONG KONG, INCLUDING TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA, COME WITHIN THIS PRIVILEGED TIER.

+WE OBJECT TO THE PRINCIPLE OF DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE GSP ON THE BASIS OF PER CAPITA GNP FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS,+ MR TSANG EMPHASISED.

+FIRST, GNP IS AN UNRELIABLE AND ARBITRARY YARDSTICK. HONG KONG DOES NOT COMPILE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STATISTICS AND THUS NO ONE, INCLUDING THE WORLD BANK, CAN COMPUTE HONG KONG'S GNP WITH ANY PRECISION. THE RELATIVELY HIGH GDP FIGURE FOR HONG KONG IS ILLUSORY BECAUSE IT CONTAINS AN UNUSUALLY LARGE SERVICES COMPONENT.

+SECONDLY, THE \$5 000 CUT-OFF POINT PROPOSED WILL IRONICALLY 'GRADUATE' TWO OF THE OPEN ECONOMIES OF THE WORLD (HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE) WHICH OFFER FREE MARKET ACCESS TO THE USA.

+THIRDLY, IT IS WELL DOCUMENTED IN THE U.S. THAT GRADUATION OF ADVANCED BENEFICIARIES LIKE HONG KONG HAS NOT BENEFITED THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. ON PAST EXPERIENCE, THE MAIN BENEFICIARY WOULD BE THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES,+ MR TSANG SAID.

UNDER THIS INEQUITABLE PROPOSAL IN THE HOUSE BILL, HONG KONG WILL BE DISQUALIFIED IN ABOUT 50 ITEMS MORE THAN AT PRESENT. VALUE OF IMPORTS IN THESE 50 ITEMS CAME TO US\$460 MILLION IN 1983.

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK, AS WELL AS THE IMPORTERS AND RETAILERS ASSOCIATIONS HAD BEEN LOBBYING THE US CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION ON THE GSP ISSUE FOR THE PAST YEAR. THEY HAVE NOW INTENSIFIED THEIR ACTIVITIES TO COUNTER THE NEW HOUSE BILL.

MEANWHILE, THE TRADE DEPARTMENT HAS KEPT THE TRADE ADVISORY BOARD CLOSELY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS ON THE PROPOSED GSP LEGISLATION. THE LOCAL TRADE ASSOCIATIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN KEPT GENERALLY IN THE PICTURE.

MR TSANG SAID +THE PRESENT POSITION ON LEGISLATION REMAINS FLUID, BECAUSE THE HOUSE BILL HAS YET TO PASS THE FULL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE. THE US SENATE ADVOCATES A DIFFERENT BILL ON GSP, AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT CERTAIN SENATORS ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE GNP CRITERIA IN DETERMINING GSP ELIGIBILITY.

+UNLESS THE SENATE AND HOUSE COULD REACH A COMPROMISE BEFORE OCTOBER 4. THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE NO REVISED GSP FOR 1985, FOR THE CONGRESS LEGISLATION PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR COMES TO A CLOSE ON OCTOBER 5. IN THAT EVENT THE PRESENT GSP WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE EXTENDED THROUGH 1985.+

AT PRESENT, ABOUT 17 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS TO THE U.S. ARE DUTY FREE UNDER THE CURRENT GSP. THIS CAME TO OVER US\$1.1 BILLION IN 1983. THE CURRENT GSP WILL EXPIRE ON JANUARY 3, 1985.

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CRAFT TRAINING +WORTHWHILE+
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TRAINING WAS A LONG-TERM INVESTMENT WHICH PRODUCED GREATER EFFICIENCY, CUT COSTS, IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF PRODUCTS OR SERVICES, AND, ENSURED A SUPPLY OF HIGHLY SKILLED OPERATIVES IN ANY ORGANISATION, THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR GRAHAM OSBORNE, SAID YESTERDAY (FRIDAY).

MR OSBORNE WAS SPEAKING AT THE DEPARTMENT'S 21ST CRAFT APPRENTICE GRADUATION CEREMONY.

SEVENTY-NINE APPRENTICES GRADUATED, AND MOST OF THEM HAVE BEEN OFFERED APPOINTMENTS, EITHER AS ARTISANS, OR AS RADIO-MECHANICS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

THE INVESTMENT HAD BEEN WORTHWHILE AND FRUITFUL, AND A LARGE NUMBER OF GRADUATED APPRENTICES HAD BEEN RETAINED IN THE PAST 10 YEARS.

+WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROSPERITY DEPENDS, TO A GREAT EXTENT, ON ITS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, BECAUSE WE HAVE NO NATURAL RESOURCES,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS IMPERATIVE, THEREFORE, THAT WE MAKE FULL USE OF OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSET - HUMAN RESOURCES, BY ENCOURAGING MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO JOIN INDUSTRY AND BY PROVIDING THEM WITH ADEQUATE TRAINING.

+IT IS ONLY BY DOING SO THAT WE ARE ABLE TO COMPETE FAVOURABLY WITH OUR NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES IN WORLD MARKETS.+

GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN THE LEAD LONG AGO, IN PROVIDING FORMAL ENGINEERING TRAINING IN HONG KONG, HE SAID.

A TRADE APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE 1950'S, ALTHOUGH THE INTAKE EACH YEAR WAS RELATIVELY SMALL.

IT WAS OVERHAULED AND EXPANDED IN 1969, AND DIVIDED INTO TECHNICAL APPRENTICESHIP AND CRAFT APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES, TO MEET MANPOWER NEEDS.

SINCE THE OPERATION OF THESE SCHEMES, 992 CRAFT APPRENTICES HAD COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING. MANY OF THEM WERE STILL WITH GOVERNMENT, SOME HOLDING KEY POSTS.

HE CONGRATULATED THE GRADUATES, IN PARTICULAR, THE LAISHLEY CUP WINNER, MR CHAN YUET-MING, AND THE HOWES PLAQUE WINNER, MR WONG TAK-WAI.

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OPEN FORUM FOR TSUEN WAN RESIDENTS

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TSUEN WAN RESIDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD, EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AND SUGGEST IMPROVEMENTS ON COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES AT AN OPEN FORUM TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE FORUM, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, IS AIMED AT PROMOTING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

IT WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 3 PM AND 4.30 PM AT THE OPEN SPACE BETWEEN THE TSUEN WAN MTR STATION AND LUK YEUNG SUN CHUEN.

THE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION INCLUDE LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICES, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MATTERS AND SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

SPEAKERS ON THE PANEL WILL BE THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR AUGUS MIU; DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN, MR HO TUNG-CHING, DR FRANK CHEUNG AND MR CHAN KOON-SHING, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM TWO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

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BEACH CARNIVAL IN CLEARWATER BAY

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A BEACH CARNIVAL AND SAND SCULPTURING COMPETITION WILL BE HELD AT THE SECOND BEACH IN CLEARWATER BAY, SAI KUNG ON OCTOBER 21 (SUNDAY).

THIS IS THE SECOND SUCH ANNUAL EVENT WHICH WILL BE JOINTLY HELD BY THE CHAMPION CLUB, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE RESPONSE TO THE CARNIVAL LAST YEAR WAS MOST ENCOURAGING, AN NTSD SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 2 PM AND 5 PM AND ENTRIES ARE NOW BEING INVITED.

+AT LAST YEAR'S CARNIVAL, HUNDREDS OF YOUNGSTERS GROUPED INTO MORE THAN 50 TEAMS, BUILT A LARGE VARIETY OF SCULPTURES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

COMPETITORS WILL BE REQUIRED TO BUILD SCULPTURES AND MODELS WITH SAND FROM THE BEACH IN AN ALLOCATED AREA OF THREE METRES BY FIVE METRES.

/TWO SPACES

TWO SPADES AND ONE BUCKET WILL BE PROVIDED TO EACH TEAM. THEY MAY ALSO BRING ALONG THEIR OWN TOOLS, AS WELL AS MATERIALS FOR DECORATION PURPOSES OR AS SUPPORTS FOR THEIR SCULPTURES.

WELL-KNOWN SCULPTORS AND ARTISTS WILL BE INVITED AS JUDGES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE AGE GROUPS: THOSE UP TO 12 YEARS OF AGE, THOSE FROM 13 TO 17 AND THOSE OVER 18. EACH TEAM SHOULD COMPRISE THREE TO FIVE MEMBERS.

APPLICATION FORMS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPETITION ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT URBAN SERVICES OFFICE THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SAI KUNG URBAN SERVICES OFFICE AT 69 MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG, BEFORE OCTOBER 7 (SUNDAY). APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE BEACH CARNIVAL WHICH WILL FEATURE MUSICAL PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR LOCAL SINGERS.

PHOTOGRAPHY ENTHUSIASTS ARE ALSO INVITED TO JOIN A COMPETITION SPONSORED BY THE UNITED ARTIST PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION.

PARTICIPANTS MAY TAKE PICTURES OF ANY SAND SCULPTURES AS WELL AS OTHER CARNIVAL ACTIVITIES.

TROPHIES AND PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNING ENTRIES OF THE SAND SCULPTURING CONTEST AND THE PHOTO COMPETITION.

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MORE FACILITIES FOR BOTANICAL GARDENS * * * * *

A NEW FOUNTAIN, A RESTAURANT AND OTHER GARDEN FACILITIES ARE AMONG ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS TO BE PROVIDED IN THE ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

THESE WILL BE BUILT ON THE RECONSTRUCTED ROOF OF THE SERVICE RESERVOIR, WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN 1931.

IT WAS DECIDED TO REBUILD THE ROOF WHEN CRACKS WERE FOUND IN IT FIVE YEARS AGO. WORK ON THIS WAS COMPLETED EARLY THIS YEAR.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A \$3.8 MILLION CONTRACT TO TECHOY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR BUILDING A LARGER-SIZED FOUNTAIN WHICH WILL BE BRIGHTLY LIT.

THE PROJECT, EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY NEXT JUNE, INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ORNAMENTAL GARDEN, A LIGHT REFRESHMENT RESTAURANT, TWO DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TOILETS AND A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT TO BE LOCATED NEAR THE ALBANY ROAD SIDE OF THE GARDEN.

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HONG KONG ISLAND MAP GETS NEW LOOK
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THE LATEST EDITION OF THE POPULAR HONG KONG ISLAND MAP IN THE COUNTRYSIDE SERIES CONTAINS MORE DETAILS, AND NOW INCLUDES THE PO TOI ISLANDS .

PRODUCED BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY DIVISION, THE NEWLY DESIGNED VERSION ADOPTS THE LATEST CARTOGRAPHIC STANDARDS AND INCORPORATES CHANGES AND NEW FACILITIES SINCE THE SEVENTH EDITION PUBLISHED IN 1981.

+IN THE CASE OF FOOTPATHS, EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO ENSURE ACCURACY WITH DETAILED STUDY OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, FIELD CHECKS, FEEDBACK FROM INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS, AND THE COUNTRY PARK AUTHORITY,+ THE DIVISION'S SENIOR CARTOGRAPHER, MR HAL EMPSON SAID.

+THESE PATHS ARE REPRESENTED BY DIFFERENT LINE PATTERNS ON THE MAP TO INDICATE GRADING, CONDITION AND STEEPNESS, ALL FOR THE BENEFIT OF USERS WHO WISH TO ENJOY SCENIC SPOTS AND PLEASANT WALKS ALONG THE COUNTRYSIDE OF THE ISLAND,+ HE ADDED.

THE MAIN MAP SCALE USED IN THE NEW FORMAT, FOR THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG ISLAND PLUS PO TOI ISLAND, IS 1:20 000 WITH DETAILED ENLARGEMENTS OVERLEAF AT SCALES VARYING FROM 1: 7 500 TO 1: 12 500 FOR THE MORE POPULAR PICNIC SPOTS, SUCH AS THE PEAK AND AREAS AROUND TAI TAM AND ABERDEEN RESERVOIRS.

THE MAP INCLUDES A BILINGUAL GENERAL INFORMATION SECTION, A LIST OF POPULAR WALKS AND PLACES OF INTEREST, FACILITIES AVAILABLE, AN INDEX OF PLACE NAMES AND NOTES ON HOW TO USE THE MAP.

+THE NEW MAP, IN A PROTECTIVE PLASTIC JACKET, IS AVAILABLE AT \$10 EACH AT MAP SALES COUNTERS OF THE SURVEY DIVISION, GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AND LEADING BOOKSTORES.

+THIS MAP IS SHEET NO. 1 IN OUR SERIES, WHICH INCLUDES FOUR OTHERS, COVERING NEW TERRITORIES WEST, NEW TERRITORIES NORTH-EAST, SAI KUNG/CLEAR WATER BAY, LANTAU AND ISLANDS. THESE ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE SAME OUTLETS,+ MR EMPSON SAID.

THE SURVEY DIVISION'S MAP SALES CENTRES ARE LOCATED AT:-

- * MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG ;
- * 382 NATHAN ROAD (AT THE JUNCTION OF GASCOIGNE ROAD), KOWLOON ; AND
- * DISTRICT SURVEY OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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REGISTRATION SUSPENDED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS TODAY SUSPENDED THE REGISTRATION OF GENERAL CREDIT FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT LIMITED AND SWARD FINANCE LIMITED AS DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, ON THE GROUND THAT THE PAID-UP SHARE CAPITAL OF THE COMPANIES IS LESS THAN THAT SPECIFIED IN THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

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SPORTS BENEFITS STRESSED

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SPORTS PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE HANDICAPPED TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL, THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF THE HONG KONG GIRL GUIDE ASSOCIATION, MRS JANE AKERS-JONES SAID TODAY.

SHE WAS SPEAKING WHILE OPENING A +SPORTS AWARD SCHEME FOR THE MENTALLY-HANDICAPPED+ AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE THIS MORNING.

THE SCHEME, DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE MENTALLY-HANDICAPPED YOUTHS TO TAKE PART IN DIFFERENT SPORTS, WAS LAUNCHED TODAY.

IT IS JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT. THE HONG KONG SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE MENTALLY-HANDICAPPED (HKSAM) AND SPONSORED BY NCR (HONG KONG) LIMITED.

A +GAMES DAY+ FEATURING GAMES AND GAMES STALLS WAS HELD AFTER THE CEREMONY, PROVIDING FUN TO MORE THAN 350 YOUTHS.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WERE THE PRESIDENT OF HKSAM, MR DICKEN YUNG; THE CHIEF RECREATION SPORT OFFICER, MR RAYMOND CHAN; AND THE DIRECTOR OF NCR (HONG KONG) LIMITED, MR ALEX NG.

INSTRUCTION AND PRACTICAL SESSIONS IN SEVEN SPORT ACTIVITIES -- ATHLETICS, SWIMMING, HIKING, ORIENTEERING, DANCE, SOCCER AND BASKETBALL -- ARE TO BE HELD, FROM TODAY UNTIL LATE NOVEMBER.

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LABOUR LAW OFFENDERS FINED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TOOK OUT 480 PROSECUTIONS FOR BREACHES OF LABOUR LAWS IN AUGUST.

OF THESE, 452 CASES RESULTED IN CONVICTION, WITH FINES TOTALLING \$482 900.

MOST OF THE CASES RELATED TO BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND ITS VARIOUS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS, THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS.

THERE WERE 158 CASES CONCERNING VIOLATIONS OF SAFETY REGULATIONS, WITH \$247 300 IN FINES. INCLUDED WERE 71 CASES (WITH \$122 400 IN FINES) FOR BREACH OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS AND 23 CASES (WITH \$50 800 IN FINES) FOR BREACH OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

THERE WERE 230 CASES RELATING TO BREACHES OF THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS, WHICH RESULTED IN \$190 200 IN FINES.

OF THE OTHER PROSECUTIONS, 10 CASES WERE RELATED TO FAILURE TO KEEP RECORD OF EMPLOYEES, LEADING TO \$6 700 IN FINES.

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WELFARE SERVICES FOR ESTATE RESIDENTS

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VARIOUS WELFARE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED FOR PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES ARE ORGANISED FOR THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, AND FORMER MENTAL PATIENTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, TODAY (SATURDAY) WHEN HE OPENED THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE AT SHUN LEE ESTATE, KWUN TONG.

HE HOPED THAT PEOPLE WOULD WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE LIFE IN THE ESTATE PLEASANT FOR THE YOUNG, THE EDLERLY AND THOSE LESS ABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES.

+INDEED, IT NEEDS THE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CONCERTED EFFORTS OF ALL OF US TO MAKE HONG KONG A BETTER PLACE FOR EVERYONE,+ HE SAID.

/COMMENTING ON

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COMMENTING ON THE NEW CENTRE, HE SAID IT WAS A PROUD DISPLAY OF BRIGHT COLOURS, MODERN DESIGN AND COMPREHENSIVE FACILITIES WHICH WOULD PROVIDE AN ATTRACTIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE CENTRE SERVES THOSE BETWEEN THE AGES OF SIX AND 30, AND ITS PROGRAMME INCLUDES VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND MORAL EDUCATION.

OVER \$665 000 WAS ALLOCATED FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND TO MEET THE CAPITAL COST, AND GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION OF MORE THAN \$461 000 WAS GRANTED TO COVER THE CURRENT YEAR'S EXPENDITURE.

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DISTRICT SWIMMING
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ABOUT 300 COMPETITORS WILL BE TAKING PART IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 30).

THE 50-EVENT GALA WILL START AT 1 PM AT THE KENNEDY TOWN SWIMMING POOL.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNERS, WHO WILL REPRESENT THE DISTRICT IN THE HONG KONG REGION SWIMMING GALA AT VICTORIA PARK SWIMMING POOL ON OCTOBER 14.

THE GALA IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE, CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORT ASSOCIATION AND SEVEN AREA COMMITTEES, AND IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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FIRING PRACTICE
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE FOR 22 DAYS NEXT MONTH - OCTOBER.

THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING.

FIRING PRACTICE WILL BE HELD FROM 8 AM TO 5 PM ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS: OCTOBER 5-6, 8-13, 16-20, 22, 25-26 AND 29.

ON OCTOBER 15, 23-24 AND 30-31 FIRING PRACTICE WILL BE FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM.

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TRAFFIC MEASURES IN CENTRAL, HAPPY VALLEY AND ABERDEEN

NEW TRAFFIC MEASURES WILL BE IN FORCE IN CENTRAL, HAPPY VALLEY AND ABERDEEN FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 1).

IN CENTRAL, THE WESTERN CARRIAGEWAY OF PEDDER STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL TO A POINT ABOUT 70 METRES SOUTH OF THE JUNCTION WILL BE MADE AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

IN HAPPY VALLEY, THE EASTERN TRAFFIC LANE OF WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD FROM HOUSE NO 93 TO NO 117, ALONG WITH THE SECTION OF BROADWOOD ROAD BETWEEN WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD AND VENTRIS ROAD, WILL BE MADE URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY.

WITHIN THESE ROAD SECTIONS, NO MOTOR VEHICLES OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS DURING THE RESTRICTED PERIODS.

IN ABERDEEN, ALL GOODS VEHICLES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING ABERDEEN RESERVOIR ROAD NORTH OF ITS NORTHERN JUNCTION WITH YUE KWONG ROAD.

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MID-LEVELS TRAFFIC CHANGE

OLD PEAK ROAD, BETWEEN ROBINSON ROAD AND HORNSEY ROAD, WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND FOR ABOUT FOUR MONTHS FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 1) FOR ROAD RESURFACING WORK.

VEHICLES TRAVELLING ON OLD PEAK ROAD NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR CENTRAL WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HORNSEY ROAD, GLENEALY AND ROBINSON ROAD. AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE WILL BE VIA MAY ROAD, MAGAZINE GAP ROAD AND GARDEN ROAD.

ALSO FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY, AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, TREGUNTER PATH BETWEEN HOUSE NO 10 AND NO 16 WILL BE REROUTED ONE LANE FOR TWO-WAY TRAFFIC, FOR ROAD WORKS.

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MAINS WORK IN POK FU LAM
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN POK FU LAM WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM TO 6 PM ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 2) FOR MAINS WORK.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY CONSORT RISE, BISNEY ROAD, CROWN TERRACE, MOUNT DAVIS ROAD AND THE SECTION OF VICTORIA ROAD NEAR SECTION 3 KUNG MAN TSUEN TO HOUSE NUMBER 200, INCLUDING KUNG MAN TSUEN, HOI PONG TSUEN AND WAH KWONG COTTAGE.

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MORE PEOPLE DOESN'T MEAN MORE CRIME
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ALTHOUGH POPULATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAS CONTINUED TO GROW POLICE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HOLD CRIME AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AS IT WAS AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES REGIONAL COMMANDER, MR RICHARD SMALLSHAW, DURING AN INTERVIEW FOR THE POLICE TELEVISION PROGRAMME "POLICE REPORT".

MR SMALLSHAW POINTED OUT THAT POLICING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IS NOT AN EASY TASK IN VIEW OF THE LARGE AREA AND ITS MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THE ERECTION OF HIGH-RISE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND THE SETTING UP OF INDUSTRIAL ZONES.

HE SAID THE PROBLEMS OF BLACKMAIL AND EXTORTION WHICH WERE CLOSELY LINKED TO THE CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING INDUSTRY HAD BEEN WELL RECOGNISED.

MR SMALLSHAW STRESSED THAT THE POLICE WERE DOING A LOT TO COMBAT THESE OFFENCES WHICH DEFINITELY HAD TRIAD INVOLVEMENT.

"ONE OF THE MEASURES WE HAVE TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM IN TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG IS TO SET UP HOTLINES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING VICTIMISED TO CALL US AND MAKE REPORTS.

"THERE IS A SNOWBALL EFFECT ON THE USE OF THESE HOTLINES FOR WE HAVE FOUND THAT AS PEOPLE PHONE IN AND GIVE US THE INFORMATION WE NEED, AND THEN SEE THE SUCCESSFUL RESULTS, OTHERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DO LIKewise," SAID MR SMALLSHAW.

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STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT AMONGST THE RESIDENTS AND ITS EFFECT ON FIGHTING CRIME, THE REGIONAL COMMANDER REVEALED THAT A "GUARD YOUR NEIGHBOUR" SCHEME WAS BEING TRIED OUT IN SHATIN AND KWAI CHUNG.

"WHAT THE SCHEME DOES IS TO UNITE 15 OR SO HOUSEHOLDERS TO MAKE THEM RESPONSIBLE TO EACH OTHER FOR THEIR SECURITY AND SAFETY.

"FOR EXAMPLE, THEY WILL APPOINT SOMEONE TO BE ON-DUTY EACH DAY SO THAT IF THE OTHER RESIDENTS ARE GOING OUT, THEY CAN INFORM HIM TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEIR HOMES AND CALL US IF THERE IS ANYTHING AMISS," MR SMALLSHAW EXPLAINED.

HE SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT THE PILOT SCHEMES HAVE MET WITH A GOOD DEGREE OF SUCCESS AND ARE POPULAR AMONGST THE PEOPLE TRYING THEM OUT.

MR SMALLSHAW ALSO TOUCHED ON VEHICLE CRIME. "ALTHOUGH STEALING CARS HAS DECREASED THIS YEAR, WE STILL GET OVER 100 CASES A MONTH," HE SAID, "SOME ARE JUST TAKEN FOR JOYRIDES OR FOR WHAT THE THIEF CAN GET FROM THE INSIDE BUT OTHERS ARE STOLEN BY WELL ORGANISED GANGS WHO STRIP THE CARS OF ALL THE VALUABLE PARTS AND THEN DUMP THE SHELL. THESE GANGS ARE OFTEN CONNECTED WITH THE RACING FRATERNITY."

TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM, MR SMALLSHAW SAID A SPECIAL VEHICLE CRIME UNIT HAD BEEN SET UP INVOLVING BOTH TRAFFIC BRANCH AND CID. "EACH SECTION HAS MUCH TO OFFER AND I HOPE THAT BY COMBINING THEIR EFFORTS EVEN GREATER SUCCESS THAN WE HAVE HAD ALREADY WILL MATERIALISE," HE ADDED.

WHILE SATISFIED THAT THE NEW TERRITORIES IS A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK, MR SMALLSHAW SAID THAT CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC WAS NEEDED TO HELP REDUCE CRIME AND TO DETECT A GREATER PROPORTION OF WHAT IS BEING COMMITTED AND DETECTED.

MR SMALLSHAW'S REVIEW ON CRIME AND POLICING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE TELEVISED ON ASIA TELEVISION ENGLISH CHANNEL AT 7.25 PM AND TVB PEARL AT 7.30 PM TODAY (SATURDAY).

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