



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1985

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SLOWER EXPORT GROWTH, LOW INFLATION IN THE FIRST HALF
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RE-EXPORTS GREW BY AN ESTIMATED 36 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1985 COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY AN ESTIMATED SIX PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, SO THAT TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY AN ESTIMATED NINE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, ACCORDING TO THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT 1985 PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE GOVERNMENT.

OVER THIS PERIOD THE RATE OF INFLATION (AS MEASURED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A)) WAS RELATIVELY LOW, AT 3.3 PER CENT.

REFLECTING THE RELATIVELY WEAK DOMESTIC DEMAND, RETAINED IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS WERE ESTIMATED TO SHOW NO CHANGE IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1985 OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR ALTHOUGH RETAINED IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS GREW BY ABOUT SEVEN PER CENT IN REAL TERMS. OVERALL, IMPORTS GREW BY ABOUT NINE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

THE REPORT NOTES THAT DESPITE THE SLOWER EXPORT GROWTH, THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION FOR THE LABOUR FORCE AS A WHOLE REMAINED LARGELY STABLE IN THE SECOND QUARTER, COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1985 WAS THREE PER CENT, AGAINST 3.3 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND 3.5 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1984. THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, AT ONE PER CENT, WAS SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN THE 1.3 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, BUT WAS THE SAME AS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

THE RATE OF INFLATION REMAINED RELATIVELY LOW IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1985. THE YEAR-ON-YEAR RATE OF INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) WAS 3.3 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1985, LITTLE CHANGED FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR BUT SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW THE 9.9 PER CENT RECORDED IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1984.

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) WAS ON AVERAGE 3.7 PER CENT HIGHER IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1985 THAN IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1984, WHILE THE HANG SENG CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WAS 3.8 PER CENT HIGHER.

THE REPORT ASSESSES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1985 USING SUCH STATISTICS AS ARE AVAILABLE. IT ALSO UPDATES THE ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMY WHICH WAS GIVEN IN THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1985 PUBLISHED IN MAY. APART FROM GIVING AN OVERALL VIEW, THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE LABOUR SECTOR, ACTIVITY IN SELECTED SECTORS AND PRICES.

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ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT APART FROM CHINA, DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO ALL MAJOR MARKETS DECLINED. WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA CONTINUED TO GROW RAPIDLY, BY ABOUT 69 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1985 OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, THOSE TO THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND JAPAN DECLINED BY ABOUT 11 PER CENT, 18 PER CENT, 21 PER CENT AND 11 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN REAL TERMS.

THE SHARP SLOWING DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR AND THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR DURING MOST OF 1984 AND IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF 1985 BOTH CONTRIBUTED TO THESE DECLINES.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, IMPORTS GREW BY ABOUT NINE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS. REFLECTING THE FASTER GROWTH IN IMPORTS FOR SUBSEQUENT RE-EXPORT, RETAINED IMPORTS DECLINED BY FIVE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

THE REPORT FURTHER POINTS OUT THAT COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1985 WITH THE FIRST HALF OF 1984, THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS), AT 13 PER CENT, WAS FASTER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, AT SEVEN PER CENT. IN CONSEQUENCE, A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS, EQUIVALENT TO 0.2 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH A VISIBLE TRADE GAP OF FIVE PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1984.

ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS:

FIRST, THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE U.S. DOLLAR MOVED FOR MOST OF THE TIME DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1985 CLOSE TO THE LINKED RATE OF HK\$7.80 TO US\$1, ALBEIT ON A SLIGHTLY FIRMER TONE TOWARDS THE LATTER PART OF THE PERIOD.

SECOND, THERE CONTINUED TO BE AMPLE LIQUIDITY IN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY MARKET DURING MOST OF THE FIRST HALF, WHICH EXERTED DOWNWARD PRESSURE ON LOCAL INTEREST RATES. ADMINISTERED INTEREST RATES WERE ADJUSTED DOWNWARDS SIX TIMES IN THE FIRST HALF AND TWICE AGAIN IN JULY.

THIRD, AS BOTH THE MONEY MARKET RATES AND THE DEPOSIT RATES SET BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS WERE CONSISTENTLY BELOW THE U.S. DOLLAR INTEREST RATES, THE GROWTH RATE OF HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR WAS LESS THAN THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS SIX-MONTH PERIOD, AS WAS THE GROWTH RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY.

ON THE LABOUR SECTOR, THE REPORT OBSERVES THAT TOTAL EMPLOYMENT SHOWED SOME INCREASE IN MARCH 1985 OVER MARCH 1984. OVER THIS PERIOD, EMPLOYMENT IN THE SERVICES SECTOR - PARTICULARLY IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES - INCREASED, EMPLOYMENT IN MANUFACTURING SHOWED NO CHANGE, WHILE EMPLOYMENT ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES CONTINUED TO DECLINE.

THE REPORT FURTHER SAYS THAT DURING THE 12 MONTHS ENDING MARCH 1985, EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, IN TERMS OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED, INCREASED BOTH IN MONEY TERMS AND IN REAL TERMS, ALBEIT AT A LESS RAPID RATE, REFLECTING THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE WEAK DOMESTIC EXPORT PERFORMANCE ON INCOMES.

EARNINGS IN THE SERVICES SECTORS, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOWED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES, LARGELY DUE TO THE SALARY INCREASES BROUGHT BY THE BUOYANT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN 1984. CONSTRUCTION WAGE RATES SHOWED SOME INCREASE IN MONEY TERMS, AND CEASED TO DECLINE IN REAL TERMS.

THE REPORT OBSERVES THAT THE SLOWING DOWN IN MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY CONTINUED INTO THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, AS EVIDENCED BY THE FIGURES ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS, THE ORDER-BOOK POSITION OF A SELECTION OF LARGE MANUFACTURERS, RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES, AND ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION BY THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR.

ON THE PROPERTY SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THE FOLLOWING TRENDS:

FIRST, THE PROPERTY MARKET SHOWED CLEAR SIGNS OF RECOVERY UPON A RETURN OF CONFIDENCE FOLLOWING THE INITIALLING OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1984.

SECOND, THE RATE OF TAKE-UP FOR MOST TYPES OF FINISHED PROPERTY IMPROVED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1985 AND VACANCY RATES FOR ALL MAIN TYPES OF PROPERTY FELL.

THIRD, PRICES AND RENTALS OF RESIDENTIAL FLATS, PARTICULARLY MEDIUM AND LARGE ONES IN WELL-MANAGED DEVELOPMENTS AND FAVOURED LOCATIONS, INCREASED.

FOURTH, THE DEMAND FOR BETTER-MANAGED ARCADE SHOPS AND OFFICES IN PRIME LOCATIONS REMAINED FAIRLY STRONG IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1985. THE PERSISTANT FALL IN PRICES AND RENTALS OF SHOPS THROUGHOUT 1984 APPEARED TO HAVE HALTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

FIFTH, THE INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY APPARENTLY CONTINUED INTO THE FIRST HALF OF 1985. WHILE PRICES OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY APPEARED TO HAVE INCREASED SLIGHTLY, RENTALS SHOWED CLEAR SIGNS OF AN UPTREND SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.

ON PRICES, THE REPORT SAYS THAT THE STEADY DECELERATION IN THE RATE OF INFLATION WAS DUE TO A NUMBER OF FAVOURABLE DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL FACTORS. FOR EXAMPLE, AGGREGATE DEMAND IN THE ECONOMY WAS NOT PARTICULARLY STRONG, THE HONG KONG DOLLAR STRENGTHENED AGAINST THE CURRENCIES OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR SUPPLIER COUNTRIES, THE RATES OF INFLATION IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS REMAINED MODERATE, AND WORLD COMMODITY PRICES WERE RELATIVELY SOFT.

THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT \$12 A COPY.

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MORE INFORMATION ON CMB FOR BOARD MEMBERS
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GOVERNMENT MEMBERS SITTING ON THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE BETTER INFORMED OF CMB'S MANAGEMENT DECISIONS IN THE FUTURE AS THE BUS COMPANY HAS AGREED TO CIRCULATE TO BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS OF DELIBERATIONS OF ITS HIGH-POWERED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

THIS WAS REVEALED IN THE FIFTH PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) WORKING GROUP ON CMB MAINTENANCE SUBMITTED FOR DISCUSSION AT A TAC MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY).

CMB WAS ALSO CONSIDERING A PROPOSAL THAT REGULAR REPORTS COVERING THE MAIN AREAS OF THE COMPANY'S OPERATIONS SHOULD BE CIRCULATED TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS.

THE NEW MEASURES WOULD HELP IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED DIRECTORS, TAC MEMBERS NOTED.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE TWO GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED DIRECTORS, ON THE CMB BOARD - THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR PETER LEEDS, AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR CHRISTOPHER WONG.

THE PROGRESS REPORT ALSO INDICATED THAT THE RATE AT WHICH CMB HAD IMPLEMENTED SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS DURING JUNE AND JULY HAD APPARENTLY NOT BEEN MAINTAINED IN AUGUST. THIS MIGHT BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FACT THAT, IN GENERAL, THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH REFERRED TO THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT, OR TO MEASURES THAT COULD BE EASILY OR ECONOMICALLY INTRODUCED HAD ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

THE TAC NOTED THAT DIFFICULTY WAS STILL BEING EXPERIENCED IN RECRUITING AN ENGINEERING MANAGER. MEMBERS HOPED THAT THIS WOULD BE RESOLVED SOON AS THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ENGINEERING MANAGER WOULD ENABLE THE COMPANY TO DELEGATE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY WHICH IS AT PRESENT OVER-CONCENTRATED AT THE TOP.

OTHER AREAS WHICH DREW MEMBERS' CONCERN WERE CMB'S SLOW PROGRESS IN RAISING ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL BUS CLEANING AND IMPROVING WORKING CONDITIONS AT ITS NORTH POINT AND CHAI WAN DEPOTS.

NEVERTHELESS, RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PERFORMANCE OF CMB VEHICLES DURING SPOT CHECKS WERE SUSTAINED IN AUGUST. THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF SAFETY DEFECTS FOUND ON CMB BUSES DROPPED TO 0.6 PER BUS LAST MONTH, COMPARED WITH AN AVERAGE OF 0.8 SAFETY DEFECT PER BUS IN JUNE AND THREE IN JANUARY.

MEANWHILE, THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CMB AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ON THE OBJECTIVE OF WITHDRAWING OLD BUSES AND REDUCING THE VARIETY OF MODELS. DISCUSSIONS ON THE WITHDRAWAL AND REPLACEMENT OF BUSES WERE CONTINUING IN THE CONTEXT OF CMB'S FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

/AT TODAY'S

AT TODAY'S MEETING, TAC MEMBERS ALSO CONSIDERED TWO PROPOSALS ON THE EXTENSION OF NEW TERRITORIES TAXI BOUNDARIES - TO PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL IN KWAI CHUNG, AND TO ALLOW SUCH TAXIS TO USE THE NEW SHA TIN-TAI PO COASTAL ROAD WHEN IT OPENS TO TRAFFIC IN SEPTEMBER.

THE COMMITTEE SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S RECOMMENDATION THAT ON BALANCE THE PROPOSED EXTENSION TO KWAI CHUNG SHOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED.

IT NOTED THAT THE MAIN ARGUMENT FOR THE EXTENSION WAS TO ENABLE WESTERN NT RESIDENTS TO HAVE DIRECT TAXI ACCESS TO THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT POINTED OUT THAT AMBULANCE SERVICE IN THE WESTERN NT WAS ADEQUATE AT PRESENT AND WILL BE ENHANCED LATER THIS YEAR WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW TUEN MUN AMBULANCE DEPOT. AT THE SAME TIME, IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION WHERE A PATIENT IS REQUIRED TO BE TRANSPORTED QUICKLY AND SAFELY TO A HOSPITAL, THE AMBULANCE IS THE MORE APPROPRIATE MODE OF TRANSPORT.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO POINTED OUT THAT FURTHER RELAXATION OF THE OPERATION BOUNDARY TO THE BUILT-UP AREAS WILL BE AT THE EXPENSE OF TAXI SERVICE TO THE REMOTE PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THERE WAS ALSO A POTENTIAL PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL OPERATIONS AS THE PROPOSED ROUTE EXTENSION PASSED THROUGH THE TWO MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS OF TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG AND PROVIDED FRONTAGE ACCESS IN THE TAI WO HAU AREA AND ALONG LAI KING HILL ROAD.

THE COMMITTEE HOWEVER SUPPORTED THE USE OF THE NEW SHA TIN-TAI PO COASTAL ROAD BY NT TAXIS AS IT WOULD SHORTEN THE JOURNEY TIME TO THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL, SHA TIN RACE COURSE AND MEI SHA FERRY PIER.

THE BOUNDARY EXTENSION SHOULD NOT PRESENT ENFORCEMENT OR TRAFFIC PROBLEMS AS THERE WOULD BE 24-HOUR CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS ON THE HIGHWAY AND THE NUMBER OF NT TAXIS USING THE HIGHWAY WAS EXPECTED TO BE SMALL.

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TRIAL PERIOD FOR 'PLEA BY POST' SYSTEM

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SOON IMPLEMENT THE NEW PROCEDURE TO DEAL WITH MINOR OFFENCES WHICH ALLOWS DEFENDANTS TO PLEAD GUILTY BY LETTER.

THE SIX-MONTH TRIAL BEGINS ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 1) IN TWO DISTRICTS -- WESTERN MAGISTRACY WILL DEAL WITH CASES FROM CENTRAL POLICE DIVISION AND NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY WILL DEAL WITH THOSE FROM THE CHEUNG SHA WAN POLICE DIVISION.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: +UNDER THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE PASSED IN MAY 1984, A DEFENDANT WILL NOT GENERALLY BE ISSUED A SUMMONS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE FOR A MINOR OFFENCE.

+INSTEAD A NOTICE OF PROSECUTION WILL BE ISSUED AND SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS WILL BE DEALT WITH IN THE ABSENCE OF THE COMPLAINANT AND DEFENDANT UNLESS THE DEFENDANT WISHES TO DENY THE CHARGE OR REQUESTS A HEARING.+

MINOR OFFENCES ARE THOSE WHERE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY IS A FINE OF \$10 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS, WHETHER OR NOT THERE MAY BE ANY ADDITIONAL COURT ORDER RELATING TO COMPENSATION OR LICENCE DISQUALIFICATION.

HE STRESSED THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL A DEFENDANT BE SENTENCED TO A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OR DISQUALIFIED FROM HOLDING OR OBTAINING A LICENCE WITHOUT HIS BEING PRESENT AND BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS. SHOULD THE COURT CONSIDER THAT A FINE IS NOT ADEQUATE PUNISHMENT A SUMMONS WILL BE ISSUED ORDERING THE DEFENDANT TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COURT.

HE SAID, +THE NEW PROCEDURES ARE DEEMED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESENT SUMMONS SYSTEM AND ITS USE WILL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE POLICE, DEPENDING ON THEIR PARTICULAR PRIORITIES AND PROBLEMS.+

HE SAID WHEN A PERSON IS REPORTED FOR A MINOR OFFENCE, THE COURT WILL SEND HIM A NOTICE OF PROSECUTION FOR MINOR OFFENCE BY POST INFORMING HIM OF THE ALLEGATION THAT HAS BEEN MADE AGAINST HIM AND THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR THE OFFENCE. IT ALSO INFORMS HIM OF HIS FOUR OPTIONS, WHICH ARE:

FIRST, HE MAY PLEAD NOT GUILTY, IN WHICH CASE HE MUST SEND WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE FIRST CLERK OF THE MAGISTRACY BY A SPECIFIED DATE. A SUMMONS WILL THEN BE SENT TO HIM ORDERING HIM TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COURT.

SECONDLY, HE MAY WISH TO PLEAD GUILTY BUT WOULD LIKE TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COURT TO OFFER AN EXPLANATION. IN THIS CASE HE MUST SEND WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE FIRST CLERK OF THE MAGISTRACY BY A SPECIFIED DATE. A SUMMONS WILL THEN BE SENT TO HIM.

THIRDLY, HE MAY WISH TO PLEAD GUILTY AND NOT APPEAR BEFORE THE COURT, THIS HE MAY DO BY WRITING TO THE FIRST CLERK; HE MAY INCLUDE IN HIS LETTER ANYTHING HE WANTS TO EXPLAIN TO THE COURT ABOUT THE OFFENCE OR IN MITIGATION OF PENALTY.

FOURTHLY, HE MAY IGNORE THE NOTICE OF PROSECUTION. IF THE DEFENDANT DOES NOTHING BY THE DATE SPECIFIED IN THE NOTICE, THE COURT MAY DEAL WITH THE CASE AS IF HE HAS PLEADED GUILTY TO THE CHARGE AND AGREED THE SUMMARY OF FACTS STATED IN THE NOTICE.

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IF A DEFENDANT IGNORES THE NOTICE OR ADMITS THE OFFENCE BY LETTER, THE CASE WILL BE HEARD IN ABSENTIA BY A MAGISTRATE SITTING IN CHAMBERS WHO WILL AWARD A PENALTY.

NOTICE OF THE AWARD OF AND OF NON-PAYMENT OF THE PENALTY WILL BE SENT BY POST TO THE OFFENDER GIVING HIM 21 DAYS TO PAY.

IF THE FINE IS NOT PAID WITHIN THE TIME STIPULATED, A SECOND NOTICE WILL BE SERVED, THIS TIME PERSONALLY, REQUIRING THE DEFENDANT TO PAY THE FINE WITHIN 14 DAYS. IF HE FAILS TO COMPLY, A SUMMONS OR WARRANT WILL BE ISSUED AGAINST HIM.

AS THE SECOND NOTICE MUST BE PERSONALLY SERVED, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF AN ARREST WARRANT BEING ISSUED AGAINST A DEFENDANT FOR NON-PAYMENT WITHOUT HAVING HAD PRIOR NOTICE OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

IF A DEFENDANT HAS NOT RECEIVED PRIOR NOTICE OF THE COURT PROCEEDINGS AND WISHES TO DISPUTE THEM, HE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY MAKE APPLICATION TO THE FIRST CLERK OF THE MAGISTRACY CONCERNED REQUESTING AN APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE TO REQUEST A REVIEW OF THE DECISION. HIS APPLICATION MUST BE MADE IN WRITING AND SHOULD BE MADE WITHIN 14 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE SECOND NOTICE OF NON-PAYMENT OF PENALTY.

IF A MAGISTRATE REVIEWS A CASE AND REVERSES THE DECISION, SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS MAY BE TAKEN BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WITHIN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE REVIEW PROCEEDINGS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +IF THE EXPERIMENT IS PROVED TO BE SUCCESSFUL THE NEW PROCEDURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

+IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF THE ONE MILLION MINOR OFFENCE CASES DEALT WITH BY SUMMONS EACH YEAR AT PRESENT WILL BE DEALT WITH UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURE WITH CONSEQUENT SAVING OF TIME BY DEFENDANTS, MAGISTRATES AND PROSECUTING OFFICERS.+

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+LONDON, HK SHARE CLOSE TIES, COMMON INTERESTS+
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LONDON AND HONG KONG HAVE MUCH IN COMMON AND MANY MUTUAL INTERESTS, AND THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES DATES BACK MANY MANY YEARS.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, WHEN ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE COUNCIL IN HONOUR OF THE VISITING LORD MAYOR OF LONDON, SIR ALAN TRAILL.

/MR. CHEONG-LEEN

MR. CHEONG-LEEN POINTED OUT THAT LONDON IS THE NO. 1 FINANCIAL MARKET IN THE WORLD, WHILE HONG KONG IS ASIA'S NO. 1 FINANCIAL CENTRE, AND THE THIRD IN THE WORLD ONLY TO LONDON AND NEW YORK.

ALSO, LONDON IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST GOLD TRADING CENTRE, WHILE HONG KONG IS ASIA'S LARGEST AND THE THIRD IN THE WORLD ONLY TO LONDON AND ZURICH.

+WE ARE BOTH EVER-STRIVING AND DYNAMIC CITIES WHERE PROSPERITY AND PROGRESS ARE THE HONEST REWARDS OF OUR RESPECTIVE ENDEAVOURS,+ HE SAID.

ON THE CULTURAL SIDE, MR CHEONG-LEEN NOTED, NUMEROUS ORCHESTRAS, DANCE, DRAMA AND THEATRE COMPANIES, AS WELL AS ARTISTS FROM BRITAIN HAVE BEEN STAGING PERFORMANCE IN URBAN COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS.

IN RETURN, THE COUNCIL ALSO SENDS ITS PERFORMING COMPANIES OVERSEAS TO ENRICH THEIR PERFORMING EXPERIENCE AND ENHANCE THEIR INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION.

HE CITED AS EXAMPLE THE COUNCIL'S DANCE COMPANY WHICH GAVE A TOTAL OF FIVE PERFORMANCES IN LONDON AND OTHER CITIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING THE 'HONG KONG PROMOTION 1981'. THE TOUR HAD STRENGTHENED THE CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES AND HAD SUCCEEDED IN PROMOTING THE IMAGE OF HONG KONG AMONG THE BRITISH PEOPLE.

MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LORD MAYOR'S CORPORATION RESEMBLE THOSE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

+ONE OF THE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUR CORPORATION IS TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH YOUR CITY, AS A CENTRE FOR FINANCE, TRADE, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, CAN FLOURISH.

+AND ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLES OF THE URBAN COUNCIL IS TO BRING A BETTER, HEALTHIER AND HAPPIER LIFESTYLE TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.+

TURNING TO HONG KONG'S TRADING AND INVESTMENT SCENE, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THAT IN 1984, HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM ROSE BY ALMOST 23 PER CENT TO 1 049 MILLION POUNDS STERLING WHILE HONG KONG IMPORTED 870 MILLION POUNDS STERLING OF GOODS FROM BRITAIN.

+WITH THE RATIFICATION OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION ON MAY 27, 1985, HONG KONG IS NOW SET TO EXPAND EVEN MORE ITS VITAL ROLE AS THE TRADING AND ECONOMIC GATEWAY TO CHINA AND HER ONE BILLION PEOPLE,+ SAID MR CHEONG-LEEN.

+THE JOINT DECLARATION WILL ENABLE HONG KONG TO CONTINUE ITS VALUABLE AND EXCELLENT LINKS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM NOT ONLY DURING THE 12-YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD, BUT ALSO IN THE YEARS BEYOND 1997.

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+HONG KONG IS WITHOUT DOUBT THE PLACE FOR LONG-TERM TRADING AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES.+

CONCLUDING, MR CHEONG-LEEN EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE TWO GREAT CITIES WILL HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FUTURE TO ENHANCE THEIR ALREADY CLOSE AND AMICABLE RELATIONSHIP.

SIR ALAN TRAILL TOLD THE GATHERING THAT HE HAS BEEN STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT BOTH HONG KONG AND LONDON FACE THE COMMON PROBLEMS +OF PROVIDING FOR THE HOMELESS AND DESTITUTE, OF MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR PEOPLES.+

+AND WHETHER OUR CITIES ARE YOUNG OR OLD, SMALL OR LARGE, WE HAVE MUCH TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON IS NOT ONLY THE LEADER OF THE CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUT ALSO IN TRADITION A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE CIVIC CITY OF LONDON AND THE BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CITY OF LONDON.

+I REGARD IT AS ONE OF MY DUTIES - WHETHER IT IS EXPRESSED PRECISELY AND OFFICIALLY OR NOT - TO ACT AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE BUSINESS INTERESTS OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

+I SEEK TO DEVELOP A GREATER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF LONDON AND YOUR OWN AUTHORITY - NOT ONLY TO SHARE OUR PROBLEMS AND EXPERIENCE IN THE CIVIC SENSE BUT TO DEVELOP BUSINESS, TRADE AND PROFESSIONAL CO-OPERATION TO MUTUAL BENEFIT,+ SIR ALAN ADDED.

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LORD MAYOR PRESENTS GOLD MEDALS TO 12
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THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON, SIR ALAN TRAILL, THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING PRESENTED GOLD MEDALS TO 12 CANDIDATES OF THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (LCCI) EXAMINATIONS AT A CEREMONY AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

THE RECIPIENTS WERE AMONG 15 CANDIDATES WHO WERE AWARDED GOLD MEDALS FOR GAINING THE HIGHEST MARKS IN THE VARIOUS LCCI EXAMS LAST YEAR.

THE EXAMINATIONS BOARD OF LCCI OFFERS EXAMINATIONS IN BUSINESS, SECRETARIAL AND LANGUAGE STUDIES WITH THE AIM OF PROVIDING A SYSTEM OF QUALIFICATIONS TO STUDENTS IN THE COMMERCIAL FIELD.

/A GOLD

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A GOLD MEDAL IS AWARDED TO AN OVERSEAS CANDIDATE WHO OBTAINED THE HIGHEST MARK IN A PARTICULAR SUBJECT.

LAST YEAR, A TOTAL OF 79 577 HONG KONG CANDIDATES TOOK PART IN THE LCCI EXAMINATIONS. OF THE 15 GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENTS, NINE HAVE GAINED FIRST PLACE AMONG ALL OVERSEAS STUDENTS.

SIR ALAN WAS MET ON ARRIVAL AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL BY THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY, MR W.C. CHAN.

EARLIER IN THE DAY, SIR ALAN VISITED THE BRITISH TRADE COMMISSION AND MET THE SENIOR BRITISH TRADE COMMISSIONER, MR CHRISTIAN ADAMS.

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LORD MAYOR OF LONDON VISITS SHA TIN

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THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON, SIR ALAN TRAILL, AND LADY TRAILL, THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON VISITED SHA TIN TO LOOK AT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE NEW TOWN.

THEY FIRST WENT TO THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE FOR A BRIEFING BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, ON THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT.

SIR ALAN AND LADY TRAILL THEN TOURED LUNG HANG ESTATE, WHICH ACCOMMODATES 26 000 PEOPLE IN PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS AND HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS.

DURING THE TOUR, SIR ALAN SAW COMMERCIAL FACILITIES IN THE ESTATE AND VARIOUS SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE WAS HANDED OVER TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE IN JUNE.

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FUNCTIONS OF DISABLED CENTRAL REGISTRY EXPLAINED
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SINCE JANUARY 1984, THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF THE DISABLED HAS HELPED NEARLY 450 DISABLED PERSONS, INCLUDING THE DEAF, BLIND, PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, MENTALLY HANDICAPPED AND EX-MENTALLY ILL, TO FIND JOBS THROUGH A +MATCHING PROCESS+, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR ALDAN KWOK, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF PENINSULA, MR KWOK SAID THAT THE +MATCHING PROCESS+ SERVICE ASSISTED THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN SHORT-LISTING DISABLED REGISTRANTS WHO FULFILLED THE REQUIREMENTS OF JOB VACANCIES.

HE SAID: +THE PROCESS BEGINS WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FEEDING THE SPECIFICATIONS OF A VACANCY INTO THE COMPUTER. THE COMPUTER MATCHES THE SPECIFICATIONS AGAINST THE PARTICULARS OF DISABLED REGISTRANTS TO IDENTIFY A NUMBER OF SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR THE VACANCY.

+FACTORS TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION ARE QUALIFICATION, EXPERIENCE, SALARY EXPECTED AND SOMETIMES THE ADDRESS OF THE REGISTRANTS.

+THE RESULTS ARE CONSIDERED BY A LABOUR OFFICER WHO SELECTS THE DISABLED PERSONS WHOM HE CONSIDERS ARE BEST MATCHED FOR THE JOB VACANCIES. HE THEN INTERVIEWS THE DISABLED PERSON TO FURTHER ASSESS HIS SUITABILITY.

+IF THE LABOUR OFFICER FINDS THE DISABLED PERSONS SUITABLE, HE WILL INTRODUCE, AND SOMETIMES ACCOMPANY HIM TO THE PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS FOR A JOB INTERVIEW.+

MR KWOK SAID THAT THIS SERVICE GREATLY REDUCED THE TIME REQUIRED FOR LABOUR OFFICERS TO SELECT SUITABLE DISABLED PERSONS FOR INTERVIEW.

THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF THE DISABLED, WHICH WAS ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED IN THE WORLD, IS THE CENTRAL FEATURE OF THE CO-ORDINATED APPROACH IN THE PROVISION OF HONG KONG'S REHABILITATION SERVICES.

CENTRALISING RECORDS OF DISABLED PERSONS KEPT BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, THE REGISTRY HAD BEEN IN OPERATION FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS.

MR KWOK POINTED OUT THAT THE REGISTRY HAD THREE MAIN FUNCTIONS — PLANNING OF REHABILITATION SERVICES; PROVIDING DATA FOR RESEARCH AND SURVEY; AND FACILITATING THE DELIVERY OF REHABILITATION SERVICES TO DISABLED PERSONS.

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ON THE PLANNING FUNCTION, HE SAID, +THE STATISTICAL INFORMATION KEPT BY THE CENTRAL REGISTRY IS USED FOR LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS OF DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF SERVICES; SUCH PROJECTIONS ARE OF VALUE IN THE EXECUTION OF HONG KONG'S REHABILITATION POLICY, AS LAID DOWN IN THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME PLAN.+

+OUR FIGURES GIVE THE PLANNERS IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES A MORE REALISTIC IDEA OF THE DEMAND FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES, SO THAT WHERE SHORTFALLS ARE IDENTIFIED, EITHER NOW OR IN FUTURE, NEW PROJECTS CAN BE INITIATED TO MEET THEM,+ HE SAID.

THE CENTRAL REGISTRY, IN ADDITION, COULD PROVIDE PLANNERS WITH A DISTRIBUTION OF DISABLED PERSONS BY DISTRICTS AND AGE, PLUS OTHER NEEDED CHARACTERISTICS.

+THUS, PLANNERS CAN EXAMINE THE DEMAND FOR THE SERVICE IN QUESTION AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL AND THEN TRY TO PLACE THE SERVICE CENTRE AT A LOCATION THAT WILL BEST SERVE THE PROSPECTIVE CLIENTS,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE +RESEARCH+ FUNCTION, MR KWOK SAID THAT THE DATA-BASE OF THE CENTRAL REGISTRY WAS A VERY GOOD SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR RESEARCH INTO THE CHARACTERISTICS OF HONG KONG'S DISABLED POPULATION.

AS FAR AS THE +DELIVERY+ FUNCTION WAS CONCERNED, THE INDIVIDUAL RECORDS OF DISABLED PERSONS KEPT AT THE REGISTRY WERE RESTRICTED TO THOSE WHO WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE PROVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES TO THE DISABLED PERSONS CONCERNED.

+AS AND WHEN NECESSARY THE REGISTRY CAN SUPPLY FAMILY BACKGROUND INFORMATION, SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFORMATION AND MEDICAL INFORMATION OF A DISABLED REGISTRANT TO AGENCIES COVERED BY THE CENTRAL REGISTRY TO FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF SUCH REHABILITATION SERVICES,+ HE SAID.

BY SO DOING, THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS COULD BE EXPEDITED AND DUPLICATION OF SERVICES MINIMISED.

MR KWOK THEN APPEALED TO EMPLOYERS TO EMPLOY THE DISABLED.

+WITH PROPER TRAINING AND FAMILIARISATION WITH THE JOB, A DISABLED PERSON IS AS EQUALLY CAPABLE AS ANY OTHER PERSON TO WORK. ALL THEY NEED IS THE CHANCE TO LET THEM SHOW THEIR CAPABILITY,+ HE SAID.

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES LIAISON GROUP TO BE SET UP
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CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO SET UP A PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES LIAISON GROUP AMONG THE FOUR DISTRICT BOARDS ON HONG KONG ISLAND AT THEIR MEETING ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 29) AFTERNOON.

THE IDEA WAS THE RESULT OF SUGGESTIONS DURING AN INFORMAL MEETING RECENTLY AMONG THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN OF THE FOUR BOARDS, WHICH AIMS AT MONITORING VARIOUS PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES ON THE ISLAND.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE GREEN PAPER ON HOUSING SUBSIDY TO TENANTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING, THE OPEN FORUM ON LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN BOARD.

AT THE MEETING, THEY WILL ADOPT THE CHINESE VERSION OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD REVISED DB STANDING ORDERS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE PLANS AND WORKS COMMITTEE.

AN ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC OPINION INVESTIGATION NETWORK SCHEME AND TO CONDUCT A SURVEY WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE INFORMATION PAPERS ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS; THE ROLE OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC); AND PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE BOARD'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 29) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF WILLIE BUILDING, 222-224 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

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WORKERS TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS FROM WAGE FUND
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ABOUT 270 FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE DEFUNCT CITY PARK RESTAURANTS LIMITED WILL RECEIVE PAYMENTS AMOUNTING TO \$670 000 FROM THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND THIS WEEK.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WAGE SECURITY UNIT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID THE WORKERS LOST THEIR JOBS WHEN THE THREE RESTAURANTS AND A LOUNGE OPERATED BY THE COMPANY CEASED OPERATION ON JULY 10, FOLLOWING A HIGH COURT DECISION APPOINTING THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER AS PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR.

THE WORKERS, WHO WERE OWED WAGES IN ARREARS SINCE JUNE 16, HAD SINCE APPLIED FOR EX-GRATIA PAYMENT FROM THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN VERIFIED AGAINST THE WAGE AND EMPLOYMENT RECORDS KEPT BY THE COMPANY AND A NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES HAD BEEN MADE WITH THE MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RESTAURANTS.

HE SAID LETTERS WERE NOW BEING SENT TO APPLICANTS TO INFORM THEM TO COLLECT THEIR PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND AT THE OFFICE OF THE WAGE SECURITY UNIT AT TAI SANG COMMERCIAL BUILDING, HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND, ADMINISTERED BY A BOARD APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, BEGAN OPERATION IN APRIL THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE QUICK CASH RELIEF TO EMPLOYEES WHOSE EMPLOYERS HAD BECOME INSOLVENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE EMPLOYERS WERE REQUIRED TO KEEP AND MAINTAIN A RECORD SETTING OUT THE WAGE AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF EACH EMPLOYEE IN THE PRECEDING SIX MONTHS OF HIS EMPLOYMENT.

THE RECORD SHOULD ALSO BE KEPT FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS AFTER THE EMPLOYEE HAD CEASED TO BE EMPLOYED.

HE REMINDED EMPLOYEES THAT THEY SHOULD ALSO KEEP SOME SORT OF RECORD OF THEIR OWN IN RESPECT OF THEIR WAGES, LEAVE AND OTHER ENTITLEMENTS- THIS WOULD SPEED UP THE PROCESS OF VERIFICATION AS AN APPLICANT COULD PROVIDE RECORDS IN SUPPORT OF HIS APPLICATION.

UNDER THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY ORDINANCE, AN APPLICANT WHO APPLIED FOR PAYMENT FROM THE FUND MAY ASK FOR A REVIEW BY THE FUND BOARD IF HE WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE DECISION OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR IN RESPECT OF THE AMOUNT PAID TO HIM.

HOWEVER, SINCE THE FUND COMMENCED OPERATION IN APRIL, NO REQUEST FOR REVIEW HAD BEEN RECEIVED SO FAR, HE ADDED.

TO DATE, THERE WERE 2 290 APPLICATIONS FOR PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND AND THE AMOUNT CLAIMED WAS ABOUT \$4.8 MILLION.

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BRIEFING ON TIN SHUI WAI CLEARANCE

A MEDIA BRIEFING ON THURSDAY'S TIN SHUI WAI CLEARANCE WILL BE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH ON THE 21ST FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AT 3 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER, MR JOHN CORRIGALL, THE ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALAN WONG, AND A CHIEF HOUSING MANAGER, MR LAU PO-CHI WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE CLEARANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR TIN SHUI WAI.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE BRIEFING.

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AWARD SCHEME DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED

A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY AWARD SCHEME WILL BE HELD AT THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION, 182 HENNESSY ROAD, 16TH FLOOR, AT 3 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE AWARD SCHEME, DESIGNED FOR WORKERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, IS ORGANISED BY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE AND SPONSORED BY SEVERAL COMMERCIAL FIRMS.

SPEAKING AT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING PARTY ON CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY AWARD SCHEME, MR POON TO-CHUEN.

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE, MR PETER NIE, WILL BE PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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YOUTH SPORTS CARNIVAL TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER
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THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL ORGANISE A TWO-DAY YOUTH SPORTS CARNIVAL IN OCTOBER IN OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR.

THE CARNIVAL, TO BE HELD IN VARIOUS VENUES IN SHA TIN AND TAI PO ON OCTOBER 13 (SUNDAY) AND OCTOBER 20 (SUNDAY), IS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING YOUTHS OF DIFFERENT LEVELS OF PROFICIENCY TO PARTICIPATE IN A WIDE RANGE OF RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CARNIVAL WILL BE A TELEMATCH, INVOLVING WELL-KNOWN PERSONALITIES FROM THE TWO TELEVISION STATIONS, THE RADIO STATIONS AND LEADING LOCAL FOOTBALL STARS AND JOCKEYS.

THE ACTIVITIES WILL FEATURE MORE THAN 20 EVENTS OF AEROBIC DANCE-IN, BADMINTON, BASKETBALL, CANOEING, DINGHY SAILING, WINDSURFING, HANDBALL, FUN GAMES, ROAD RACING, ROWING, SQUASH, TENNIS, CYCLING, WATER CARNIVAL AND FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL.

ENTRIES FOR THE CARNIVAL, WHICH IS SPONSORED BY THE STANDARD CHARTERED BANK, ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED AND YOUTHS AGED 15 TO 25 ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE. THERE WILL BE NO ADMISSION CHARGES.

TO INTRODUCE THE ACTIVITIES TO THE PUBLIC, THE RSD HAS PUBLISHED A COMPREHENSIVE PAMPHLET OUTLINING THE VENUE, DATE AND TIME OF EACH INDIVIDUAL EVENT.

COPIES OF THE PAMPHLET, TOGETHER WITH APPLICATION FORMS, ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE RSD AND THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRY IS SEPTEMBER 23.

FOR INFORMATION, CALL THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE RSD ON TELEPHONE 0-6065669.

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DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED

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THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCES PASSED ON LEUNG KAM-KWOK AND KEUNG YIU-NAM ON JUNE 23, 1981 AND FEBRUARY 6, 1985 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON HO ON AUGUST 17, 1984 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO 25 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

LEUNG WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF MADAM LAI KIN-YING ON JULY 10, 1980. KEUNG WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF MADAM LAI TANG PIK-CHEE AND HER SON, LAI MING ON FEBRUARY 11, 1983. HO WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF CHAN KUK-POR ON JULY 2, 1982.

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SHEK WU HUI, FANLING TRAFFIC CHANGES

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SAN FUNG AVENUE AT SHEK WU HUI BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 10 AND HOUSE NO. 34 WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE A NEW ROAD PARALLEL TO THE EXISTING SAN FUNG AVENUE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SLIP ROAD LINKING THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF HIP WO STREET AND WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF SHUN LEE TSUEN ROAD WILL CONTINUE TO BE CLOSED FOR ANOTHER THREE WEEKS TO FACILITATE MAINLAYING WORK.

MOTORISTS ON HIP WO STREET NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR THE SHUN LEE AREA WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE SHUN LEE TSUEN ROAD.

MEANWHILE, THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 30), IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING OF ROAD D AT FANLING:

- * THE SECTION OF ROAD D3 AT FANLING BETWEEN JOCKEY CLUB ROAD AND KAI LENG ELEVATED ROUNDABOUT WILL BE DESIGNATED A 24-HOUR RESTRICTED ZONE.
- * ALL LEARNER DRIVERS AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE ABOVE ROAD.

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- * CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE ABOVE ROAD.
- * AT ITS JUNCTION WITH JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONTROLLER WILL BE INSTALLED TO REGULATE TRAFFIC FLOW.
- * TRAFFIC HEADING FOR YUEN LONG AND SHEK KONG CAN DIVERT TO USE THE NEW ROAD INSTEAD OF JOCKEY CLUB ROAD.

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QUARRY BAY TO GET NEW MARKET COMPLEX
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A NEW MARKET COMPLEX, WHICH WILL INCLUDE LEISURE FACILITIES, IS TO BE BUILT ON TOP OF A PUMPING STATION IN QUARRY BAY.

THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS JUST AWARDED THE \$22 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE URBAN COUNCIL PROJECT AT THE JUNCTION OF MOUNT PARKER ROAD AND QUARRY BAY STREET.

A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT, LOADING AND UNLOADING BAYS AND LIFT SERVICES WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED ON THE GROUND FLOOR, WHILE ON THE UPPER FLOORS ARE A MARKET, FIVE COOKED FOOD STALLS, OFFICE ACCOMMODATION, A LIBRARY, A STUDY ROOM, GAMES ROOMS, SQUASH COURTS AND A MULTI-PURPOSE GAMES HALL.

WORK ON THE COMPLEX WILL START EARLY NEXT MONTH AND BE COMPLETED BY LATE 1987.

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POK FU LAM ROAD TRAFFIC CHANGES
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VEHICLES ON POK FU LAM ROAD WESTBOUND WILL BE BANNED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO POKFIELD ROAD FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 30).

TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE THE SLIP ROAD SOUTH OF THE POKFIELD ROAD BUS TERMINUS.

IN WAN CHAI, YAT SIN STREET BETWEEN LAP TAK LANE AND SUNG TAK STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 12.15 AM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 30) FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AIR CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT AT A BUILDING THERE.

DURING THE CLOSURE, YAT SIN STREET BETWEEN LAP TAK LANE AND SUNG YIN LANE WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND WHILE SUNG YIN LANE WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.

VEHICLES ON LAP TAK LANE HEADING FOR SUNG TAK STREET WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE YAT SIN STREET, SUNG YIN LANE AND OI KWAN ROAD.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (TUESDAY) STOOD AT 68.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 399.833 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 501.852 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 85.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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