



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1983

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1983

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I HAVE LEARNED AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT, SAYS EVANS
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THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO PEKING (DESIGNATE), MR RICHARD EVANS, SAID HE HAD LEARNED AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT DURING HIS FIVE-DAY VISIT HERE.

SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR LONDON THIS (SUNDAY) EVENING, MR EVANS SAID HE HAD HAD VERY GOOD TALKS WITH THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND WITH MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. HE HAD ALSO FORMALLY MET OVER 200 PEOPLE, FROM MANY OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS AND OF ALL AGES.

MR EVANS SAID HE WOULD GO TO PEKING IN THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY AND WOULD, IN THE MEANTIME, CONTINUE HIS PROGRAMME OF BRIEFING AND FAMILIARISATION IN LONDON.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF MR EVAN'S STATEMENT:

+I JUST LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS BEFORE I LEAVE. AS I SAID HERE AT KAI TAK 5 DAYS AGO - THOUGH IT SEEMS MUCH LONGER TO ME - I CAME TO HONG KONG TO SEE, TO LISTEN AND TO LEARN. I HAVE SEEN A GREAT DEAL FROM THE AIR, FROM THE SEA AND, PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, ON THE GROUND, A GOOD DEAL OF IT ON FOOT. INDEED, I SHALL TAKE BACK AS SOUVENIR OF HONG KONG TO LONDON WITH ME IN THE FORM OF A BLISTER ON MY LEFT HEEL. I HAVE VERY GOOD TALKS INDEED WITH THE GOVERNOR AND WITH MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. I HAVE MET MANY OTHER PEOPLE, IN THE SENSE OF BEING FORMALLY INTRODUCED I HAVE MET OVER 200 PEOPLE, FROM MANY OCCUPATIONS, AND PROFESSIONS AND OF ALL AGES. I HAVE LEARNED AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT. IT IS NOW FOR ME TO ASSIMILATE WHAT I HAVE LEARNED AND I SHALL WORK HARD AT IT. I EXPECT TO GO TO PEKING IN THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY. I NOW GO BACK TO LONDON TO CONTINUE MY PROGRAMME OF BRIEFING AND FAMILIARISATION. WHEN IN LONDON, I EXPECT TO MEET MANY MORE PEOPLE INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR SIR PERCY CRADOCK, WITH WHOM I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING EXTREMELY GOOD TALKS. SO ENDS MY 9TH VISIT TO HONG KONG. I LOOK FORWARD TO MANY MORE IN THE FUTURE. IN THE MEANTIME, I SHOULD LIKE TO THANK, THROUGH YOU, ALL THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR TIME TO ENTERTAIN AND TO ENLIGHTEN ME, AND THAT INCLUDES YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS. ZAIJIAN (SEE YOU AGAIN).+

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AIRPORT EXPANSION WORK EXPECTED TO START NEXT YEAR
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DETAILED DRAWINGS ON HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S STAGE V DEVELOPMENT ARE BEING PREPARED TO ENSURE THAT MAJOR WORKS OF THE PROJECT WILL START IN THE LATTER HALF OF 1984.

MR TREVOR OLIVER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/TECHNICAL AND PLANNING, OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THE PROJECT WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED IN TIME TO MEET THE AIR PASSENGER TRAFFIC NEEDS OF THE MID TO LATE 1980'S.

MR OLIVER EXPRESSED THIS CONFIDENCE IN A PRESENTATION JUST MADE TO THE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (ACC) OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION.

THE COMMITTEE, COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HEAD OFFICES OF VARIOUS MAJOR AIRLINES, MEETS REGULARLY IN HONG KONG WITH THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT TO UPDATE ITSELF AND TO COMMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AT KAI TAK.

+OUR AIM IS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PASSENGER HANDLING FACILITIES FOR FORECAST TRAFFIC LEVELS UP TO THE EARLY 1990'S,+ MR OLIVER SAID.

+IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, THE FORM AND EXTENT OF THE STAGE V DEVELOPMENT HAS NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR AN EXPENDITURE OF THE ORDER OF \$273 MILLION, AND THIS IS IN NO SMALL WAY DUE TO THE CONTINUING SUPPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE,+ HE ADDED.

UNDER THE STAGE V SCHEME, THE TERMINAL BUILDING WILL BE EXTENDED EASTWARDS OVER THE EXISTING COACH PARK AND INTO THE AREA NOW OCCUPIED BY THE STORES BUILDINGS, WHICH WILL BE REPROVIDED ELSEWHERE AT THE AIRPORT.

AT DEPARTURES LEVEL, TWO NEW CHECK-IN ISLANDS WILL BE PROVIDED, RAISING THE NUMBER OF CHECK-IN DESKS BY 60 TO A TOTAL OF 176 IN THE ENTIRE BUILDING.

THE DEPARTURES LEVEL ROADWAY WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED TO PROVIDE INCREASED KERB LENGTH DIRECTLY SERVING THE EXTENSION.

THE NUMBER OF OUTWARD IMMIGRATION DESKS WILL ALSO BE INCREASED TO MATCH THE TRAFFIC FLOWS, AND THE AIRSIDE LOUNGE AREA WILL BE EXPANDED.

THROUGHOUT THE STAGE V DEPARTURES LEVEL, ADDITIONAL PREMISES FOR SHOPS, CAFES, MONEY CHANGERS AND OTHER FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED. IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT FURTHER RESTAURANT FACILITIES ON THE ROOF OF STAGE V WILL BE OFFERED.

AT ARRIVALS LEVEL, INBOUND IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS CHECKING FACILITIES WILL BE EXPANDED AND TWO NEW BAGGAGE RECLAIM UNITS WILL BE PROVIDED.

/STAGE V

STAGE V PLANNING INCORPORATES A STRUCTURAL DESIGN THAT WILL REQUIRE FEWER COLUMNS IN AREAS OF PASSENGER CIRCULATION, AND IN AREAS WHERE BAGGAGE HANDLING VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT WILL NEED TO OPERATE.

THE PROJECT ALSO INCLUDES DEVELOPMENT OF THE WESTERN GROUND LEVEL CARPARK AS A PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS, WHICH WILL GIVE ARRIVING PASSENGERS ACCESS TO TAXIS, HIRE CARS AND AIRPORT COACHES IN A BRIGHTER ENVIRONMENT.

THE CHAIRMAN OF ACC AND GENERAL TRAFFIC MANAGER OF CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS, MR JERRY PENWARDEN, SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE HIGHLY APPRECIATED THE EFFORTS OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTING ACC IN THE PLANNING FOR STAGE V.

HE SAID THAT MR OLIVER'S PRESENTATION HAD GREATLY ASSISTED THE COMMITTEE IN THE CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSALS.

ACC CONSIDERED THAT THE STAGE V DEVELOPMENT WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE BOTH PASSENGER AND BAGGAGE PROCESSING.

IT ADDED THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEM IN THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE TERMINAL COULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.

SITE PREPARATION WORK FOR STAGE V IS SCHEDULED TO START IN LATE 1984 BUT WORK ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT INCLUDING THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS, WILL START EARLIER.

ALTHOUGH STAGE V WILL NOT BE COMMISSIONED IN ITS ENTIRETY UNTIL 1987, VARIOUS MEASURES ARE BEING EXAMINED, INCLUDING EARLY COMMISSIONING OF PARTS OF STAGE V, TO MINIMISE CONGESTION THAT MAY DEVELOP IN PEAK TIMES.

CURRENTLY KAI TAK IS HANDLING ABOUT 3 300 PASSENGERS PER HOUR (ONE-WAY) AND ABOUT 8.7 MILLION PASSENGERS (TWO-WAY) PER ANNUM. IT IS FORECAST THAT BY 1990, THE ONE-WAY HOURLY FLOW WILL BE ABOUT 5 300 PASSENGERS AND THE ANNUAL TWO-WAY FLOW WILL APPROACH 18 MILLION PASSENGERS.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE EXISTING TERMINAL BUILDING'S PROCESSING CAPACITY OF 3 400 PASSENGERS PER HOUR, ONE WAY, WILL BE FULLY UTILISED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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HOSPITAL EXPANSION PROJECT IN PROGRESS

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CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE FIRST PHASE OF THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL EXTENSION PROJECT HAS JUST STARTED.

THE PROJECT -- THE BIGGEST EXTENSION PROGRAMME UNDERTAKEN BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT -- WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 675 BEDS TO THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL. ITS TOTAL COST WILL EXCEED \$750 MILLION.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT ARE TO RELIEVE OVERCROWDING, IMPROVE EXISTING SERVICES, UPGRADE THE TEACHING FACILITIES AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING SERVICES.

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 23-STOREY BUILDING WITH EACH LEVEL HAVING A FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 1 200 SQUARE METRES, ON TOP OF A FIVE-LEVEL PODIUM. WORK ON THIS PHASE IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1985.

IN THE SECOND PHASE, A TEN-STOREY STRUCTURE WILL BE BUILT OVER THE EXISTING HOSPITAL CANTEEN, WITH EACH FLOOR MEASURING ABOUT 600 SQUARE METRES. WORK WILL BEGIN IN 1985 AND IS EXPECTED TO BE FINISHED BY 1987.

THE TWO NEW BLOCKS WILL PROVIDE A LARGE NUMBER OF MEDICAL WARDS FOR VARIOUS MEDICAL UNITS, INCLUDING PAEDIATRICS, HAEMODIALYSIS, ORTHOPAEDICS, BURNS AND RECONSTRUCTIVE TREATMENT, MAXILLOFACIAL (DENTAL) SERVICES, OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY, PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE THIRD PHASE OF THE PROJECT WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL THE FIRST TWO STAGES ARE COMPLETED.

THIS LAST PHASE INVOLVES IMPROVING ANCILLARY FACILITIES IN THE EXISTING MAIN BLOCK OF THE HOSPITAL.

AS CONSTRUCTION WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED, THE CARPARK NEXT TO THE HOSPITAL BUILDING IS NOW CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

HE URGED VISITORS TO QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL TO TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORT WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

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MORE LAND TO BE RECLAIMED AT MA ON SHAN

WORK WILL START SHORTLY ON RECLAMATION OF ANOTHER 61 HECTARES OF LAND AT MA ON SHAN AS PART OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT.

TENDERS FOR THE CONTRACT ARE BEING INVITED BY THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY WORK ON THE CONTRACT WOULD INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF A 2 100-METRE-LONG SEAWALL AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE.

HE SAID ABOUT FIVE MILLION CUBIC METRES OF FILL FOR THE RECLAMATION WOULD BE EXCAVATED FROM A BORROW AREA IN THE WAN TSAI PENINSULA AT THE NORTHERN ENTRANCE TO TOLO CHANNEL.

AT WAN TSAI, A SHORT SECTION OF SEAWALL, A SMALL RECLAMATION AREA FOR A LANDING PLACE AND AN EMERGENCY ACCESS ROAD TO HOI HA WILL BE BUILT TO FACILITATE THE WORK.

WORK ON THE CONTRACT WILL START IN MARCH NEXT YEAR AND TAKE FOUR YEARS TO COMPLETE.

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PART-TIME JOB EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES SUBJECT TO CONTROL

AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY WHICH FINDS PART-TIME JOBS FOR JOB-SEEKERS IS ALSO SUBJECT TO CONTROL BY LAW, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED TODAY (SUNDAY).

ANY ESTABLISHMENT WHICH FINDS EMPLOYMENT FOR PEOPLE IS DEFINED UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AS AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY, NO MATTER WHETHER THE EMPLOYMENT IS OF A PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME NATURE, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY OPERATOR MUST OBTAIN A LICENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT THE LICENCE FEE IS \$300 A YEAR.

THE AMOUNTS OF FEES OR COMMISSIONS THAT CAN BE CHARGED BY AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY ARE PRESCRIBED BY THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATIONS.

THE FEE TO BE PAID BY JOB-SEEKERS FOR FIRST REGISTRATION AND SUBSEQUENT RENEWAL AFTER THREE MONTHS IS LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF \$3, AND THE COMMISSION FOR A SUCCESSFUL JOB PLACEMENT TO 10 PER CENT OF THE FIRST MONTH'S SALARY.

THE REGULATIONS ALSO LIMIT THE FEE THAT CAN BE CHARGED BY AN AGENCY TO AN EMPLOYER TO A MAXIMUM OF \$10 FOR EACH TYPE OF VACANCY REGISTERED ON FIRST REGISTRATION AND \$5 FOR RENEWAL OF SUCH REGISTRATION.

THE COMMISSION TO BE PAID BY AN EMPLOYER TO AN AGENCY ON SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINING AN EMPLOYEE IS A MATTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOTH PARTIES.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT AN OPERATOR MUST DISPLAY THE FEE SCHEDULES AND HIS LICENCE IN HIS PREMISES.

ANYONE WHO HAS ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE OPERATIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES MAY CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT'S OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF SINCERE INSURANCE BUILDING AT 4 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, OR DIAL 5-281035 OR 5-296670.

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CHANGES FOR GOODS VEHICLES LICENCE TESTS

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CANDIDATES APPLYING FOR GOODS VEHICLE DRIVING LICENCES WITH TEST APPOINTMENTS ON OR AFTER THE ENACTMENT DATE OF THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES) REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 374, WILL HAVE TO OPT EITHER FOR A TEST ON A MEDIUM GOODS VEHICLE OR FOR ONE ON A HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE.

IF CANDIDATES PASS THE HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE DRIVING TEST, THEY WILL HAVE THEIR LICENCES ENDORSED FOR BOTH MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES.

THE NEW LEGISLATION IS EXPECTED TO BE IMPLEMENTED SOME TIME IN AUGUST, 1984.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (NOVEMBER 20), A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, THERE WILL BE THREE CATEGORIES OF DRIVING LICENCES FOR GOODS VEHICLES.

THE THREE CATEGORIES WILL COVER MEDIUM GOODS VEHICLES WITH GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT BETWEEN 5.5 TONNES AND 24 TONNES, HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES WITH GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OVER 24 TONNES BUT NOT EXCEEDING 38 TONNES- AND ARTICULATED VEHICLES.

PEOPLE WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR AN ARTICULATED VEHICLE DRIVING LICENCE MUST POSSESS A GOODS VEHICLE (RIGID) LICENCE.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE NEW ARRANGEMENT WILL NOT AFFECT THOSE CANDIDATES WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN AN +ALL GOODS VEHICLE+ TEST APPOINTMENTS AND WHOSE TESTS ARE TO BE CONDUCTED BEFORE THE ENACTMENT DATE.

+IF THEY PASS THEIR TESTS, THEY WILL HAVE THEIR DRIVING LICENCES ENDORSED FOR ALL GOODS VEHICLES.

+AND THEY ARE ALSO PERMITTED TO DRIVE ARTICULATED VEHICLES FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO THREE YEARS FROM THE DATE OF ENACTMENT, DURING WHICH TIME THEY MUST TAKE AND PASS AN ARTICULATED VEHICLE DRIVING TEST IF THEY WISH TO CONTINUE TO DRIVE ARTICULATED VEHICLES,+ HE SAID.

ALL HOLDERS OF +ALL GOODS VEHICLE+ LICENCES VALID ON THE DATE OF ENACTMENT WILL HAVE THEIR LICENCES ENDORSED TO ENABLE THEM TO DRIVE MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE (RIGID) WHEN THEY RENEW THEIR LICENCES.

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NEW I.D. CARD APPLICATION REMINDER

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MEN BORN IN 1957 AND 1956 WERE REMINDED TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THEY HAD ONLY TWO WEEKS LEFT TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS.

THE SIXTH PHASE OF THE EXERCISE, TARGETED AT THESE TWO AGE GROUPS, WILL END ON DECEMBER 3, 1983.

AN IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID, +SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THIS PHASE ON OCTOBER 31, 74 500 APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. THE ESTIMATED TOTAL NUMBER OF MEN IN THIS AGE BRACKET IS 120 000.+

THE FIGURE REPRESENTS AN AVERAGE TURN-UP RATE OF 3 700 APPLICANTS A DAY IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS.

+WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE CO-OPERATION OF THESE APPLICANTS, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET APPLIED TO DO SO NOW, SO AS TO AVOID ANY LAST MINUTE RUSH,+ HE SAID.

APPLICANTS SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR OLD IDENTITY CARDS WHEN THEY REPORT TO ANY OF THE EIGHT ISSUE OFFICES BETWEEN 8 AM AND 9.30 PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY.

IT TAKES ABOUT HALF AN HOUR TO PROCESS AN APPLICATION, AND APPLICANTS WILL BE ASKED TO RETURN IN 18 WORKING DAYS TO COLLECT THEIR NEW CARDS AND SURRENDER THEIR OLD ONES.

+THOSE WHO ARE AWAY FROM HONG KONG DURING THE SPECIFIED PERIOD SHOULD APPLY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THEIR RETURN,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE PRAISED

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY, TODAY (SUNDAY) PRAISED THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE FOR THEIR VOLUNTARY SERVICE WHICH, HE SAID, MEANS +YOU ARE FREE TO DO WHAT YOU WILL WITH YOUR TIME, YET YOU CHOOSE TO GIVE TIME AND ENERGY+.

+YOU ACCEPT DISCIPLINE FOR THE SERVICE OF OTHERS. IN HONG KONG NOBODY FORCES YOU TO DO THIS. YOU CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL. WE MUST ALL WISH THAT THIS WAY OF LIFE WHICH MAKES THIS POSSIBLE WILL CONTINUE FOREVER,+ MR BRAY SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL PARADE OF THE BRIGADE AT THE SOUTH CHINA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION STADIUM, HE ALSO PRAISED THEM FOR THEIR DEVOTION AND HARD WORK.

+THE PUBLIC-SPIRITEDNESS, DEDICATION, ENTHUSIASM AND DETERMINATION OF THE PERSONNEL OF THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE ARE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE,+ HE SAID.

/+IN ORDER

+IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN EFFICIENCY, ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR BRIGADE MUST RE-QUALIFY ANNUALLY. BECAUSE OF THIS THE PRESENCE OF ST. JOHN FIRST AID MEMBERS GIVES AN ASSURANCE OF TRAINED SUPPORT TO THE PUBLIC,+ HE ADDED.

MR BRAY POINTED OUT THAT THE BRIGADE HAD ESTABLISHED A FINE TRADITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE.

+IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN HONG KONG SOME 68 YEARS AGO AND TRAINS MEN, WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO UNDERTAKE FIRST AID, AND HOME NURSING, TO BE READY TO RENDER ASSISTANCE AT BEACHES, FOOTBALL MATCHES, ATHLETIC MEETINGS, WALKATHONS AND ALL SORTS OF PUBLIC GATHERINGS IN ALL KINDS OF WEATHER,+ HE SAID.

AFTER INSPECTING THE PARADE, MR BRAY PRESENTED LONG SERVICE MEDALS AND TROPHIES TO VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE BRIGADE.

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MORE PUBLIC SYMPATHY FOR EX-DRUG ADDICTS URGED
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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ANSON CHAN, TODAY (SUNDAY) CALLED FOR MORE PUBLIC SYMPATHY TOWARDS EX-DRUG ADDICTS TO HELP THEM QUIT THE +ANTI-SOCIAL AND SELF-DESTRUCTIVE+ HABIT.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CARITAS LOK HEEP CLUB'S NEW HONG KONG CLUBHOUSE IN WAN CHAI, MRS CHAN SAID PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS IN RECENT YEARS HAD INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS IN PREVENTING DRUG ABUSE, PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.

ALTHOUGH HONG KONG HAD SOME SUCCESS IN CONTAINING THE NUMBER OF DRUG ADDICTS, SHE STRESSED THERE COULD BE NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY.

+PREVENTION OF DRUG ABUSE MUST BE THE PARAMOUNT OBJECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES,+ SHE SAID, ADDING THAT IT WAS ALSO VITAL FOR THE ADDICTED TO SEEK TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION.

+IT IS IN THIS AREA THAT THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS IS SO IMPORTANT AND WE MUST ENSURE THAT ALL WHO NEED TREATMENT AND AFTERCARE SERVICES ARE AWARE OF HOW TO SEEK HELP AND ARE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO,+ SHE SAID.

TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES, IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT SOCIAL WORKERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS IN THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WORK CLOSELY IN THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME, SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN ASSURED THE CLUB OF CONTINUING SUPPORT FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE ITS FACILITIES FOR MEMBERS.

SHE SAID A LOTTERIES FUND GRANT OF \$181 000 HAD BEEN PROVIDED FOR FITTING OUT AND FURNISHING THE NEW CLUBHOUSE AND THE RECURRENT COST OF ITS OPERATION WAS FULLY MET BY GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION.

THE LOK HEEP CLUB, ESTABLISHED IN 1968, HAS BEEN HELPING EX-DRUG ADDICTS THROUGH COUNSELLING, THERAPEUTIC GROUP WORK AND JOB PLACEMENT.

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FORMATION OF MORE LIFE-SAVING CLUBS URGED
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THERE IS ALWAYS A NEED FOR ABLE-BODIED, SKILLED LIFE-SAVERS TO BE ON HAND TO GO TO THE AID OF BATHERS IN DIFFICULTY, THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JOHN HEYWOOD, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THIS IS BECAUSE THERE IS ALWAYS AN ELEMENT OF RISK IN SWIMMING, WHETHER IN THE SWIMMING POOL OR AT THE BEACH, HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY OF THE SECOND NEW TERRITORIES LIFE-SAVING OPEN COMPETITION AT THE YUEN LONG PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL, MR HEYWOOD CALLED ON LIFE-SAVERS TO SET UP MORE DISTRICT LIFE-SAVING CLUBS TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

+TODAY'S FUNCTION ALSO GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ANNOUNCE THE RECENT FORMATION OF THE YUEN LONG PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL LIFE GUARD CLUB,+ HE SAID.

AS A JOINT EFFORT BETWEEN THE HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB AND THE GOVERNMENT, THIS NEW CLUB WILL PROVIDE LIFE-SAVING CLASSES TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN YUEN LONG AT THE YUEN LONG PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL.

+IT IS HOPED THAT THE CLASSES TO BE HELD HERE WILL BE VERY POPULAR AND WE HOPE TO SEE SIMILAR CLUBS ESTABLISHED AT OTHER BATHING POOLS AND BEACHES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE SAID.

ON TODAY'S LIFE-SAVING COMPETITION, MR HEYWOOD SAID IT OFFERED A VERY MEANINGFUL OCCASION TO WIND UP THE 1983 SWIMMING SEASON.

IT ALSO GAVE BOTH THE PROFESSIONAL AND VOLUNTEER LIFE-SAVERS THE FUN AND EXCITEMENT OF AN OPEN TOURNAMENT, HE ADDED.

+IN PARTICULAR, IT REMINDS US THERE IS A NEED TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS FOR AN IMPORTANT SKILL SUCH AS LIFE-SAVING,+ HE SAID.

MR HEYWOOD PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB FOR ITS MAJOR CONTRIBUTION IN PROVIDING PUBLIC AWARENESS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFE SWIMMING AND IN PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE LIFE-SAVING TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE SUCCESS OF TODAY'S COMPETITION WOULD DO MUCH TO ENCOURAGE MORE YOUNGSTERS TO ENLIST IN THE NEW YUEN LONG LIFE-SAVING CLUB AND TO ENCOURAGE SAFE SWIMMING.

THE GOVERNMENT, FOR ITS PART, PROVIDED A FULL-TIME TRAINED AND QUALIFIED LIFE-SAVING SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC AT ALL PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND GAZETTED BATHING BEACHES, MR HEYWOOD POINTED OUT.

/THE GOVERNMENT

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THE GOVERNMENT ALSO ATTACHED EQUAL ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE LIFE-SAVING SKILLS OF ITS LIFE-GUARDS THROUGH REGULAR TRAINING AND REFRESHER COURSES, HE SAID.

EARLIER, MORE THAN 200 PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR LIFE-SAVERS TOOK PART IN VARIOUS EVENTS AND DEMONSTRATED THEIR TECHNIQUES AT THE OPEN COMPETITION.

AT THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY, MR HEYWOOD PRESENTED WINNERS WITH TROPHIES.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION WERE THE DIRECTOR OF HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB, MR KWOK HON-MING; THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES BRANCH OF THE HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB, MR LAU HON-WAH; AND THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER OF YUEN LONG, MR WILLIAM KWONG.

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EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS FOR FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS

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THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION WILL NOT APPROVE THE ENTRY OF FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS UNLESS THEY ARE PAID THE CURRENT MARKET WAGE RANGE OF \$1 650 TO \$1 800 A MONTH, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY).

FROM NOVEMBER 28, 1983, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR WILL ONLY ATTEST EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS IF THE WAGES TO BE PAID ARE NOT BELOW THE NEW RANGE.

RE-ENGAGEMENT CONTRACTS AT THE OLD RATES (\$1 350 - \$1 500) CAN ALSO BE ATTESTED BEFORE NOVEMBER 28, 1983, PROVIDED THE RE-ENGAGEMENT CONTRACT WILL TAKE EFFECT ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 21, 1983.

IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE POLICY AND PROCEDURE RELATING TO THE ADMISSION OF FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS HAD BEEN REVIEWED AND THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT THE CURRENT ARRANGMENT SHOULD CONTINUE UNCHANGED.

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ASIAN BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP STARTS

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE STANDARD OF BASKETBALL IN ASIA WOULD IMPROVE AS THE 12TH ASIAN BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP WOULD PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR TOP PLAYERS TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS AND MATCH THEIR DETERMINATION IN A COMPETITIVE BUT FRIENDLY ARENA.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, MR BRAY PRAISED THE HONG KONG AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION FOR ORGANISING THIS IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENT.

+FOR MANY YEARS, THE ASSOCIATION HAS PROMOTED BASKETBALL WITH INITIATIVE AND GREAT ENTHUSIASM.

+THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS ALSO ANXIOUS TO PROMOTE SPORT IN HONG KONG THROUGH CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH THE AMATEUR SPORTS BODIES CONCERNED,+ HE SAID.

MR BRAY SAID THAT HE WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE HONG KONG HOSTING THIS REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

+THIS WILL AROUSE FURTHER INTEREST AND GREATER PARTICIPATION IN BASKETBALL AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE HERE,+ HE ADDED.

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INTERNATIONAL PAINTING COMPETITION

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THE ARTS CENTRE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, MAINTAINED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND THE CITY OF HYVINKAS, FINLAND, IS INVITING HONG KONG PUPILS TO TAKE PART IN THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL PAINTING COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE COMPETITION IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR GROUPS CATERING FOR STUDENTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF THREE AND 19.

MEDALS, CERTIFICATES OF MERIT, BOOKS AND OTHER PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNERS OF EACH GROUP IN THE COMPETITION, THE RESULTS OF WHICH WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN MAY, 1984.

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION IS +MY NEIGHBOURHOOD+. ENTRIES SHOULD NOT BE LARGER THAN 420 MM X 594 MM.

STUDENTS SHOULD INCLUDE ON THE BACK OF THEIR ENTRIES THEIR NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, NAME OF THEIR SCHOOL AND THE TITLE OF THEIR WORK.

ENTRIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED VIA SCHOOL HEADS TO THE ART SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BY DECEMBER 15 FOR LOCAL SELECTION.

UNSELECTED ENTRIES WILL BE RETURNED. BUT THOSE TO BE SENT TO FINLAND WILL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE ORGANISER.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE COMPETITION MAY BE MADE AT THE ART SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON 5-621967.

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1983

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CUSTOMS AND EXCISE ACTIVITIES FEATURED AT EXHIBITION

YOUNG PEOPLE INTERESTED IN PURSUING A CAREER IN THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE HAD A CHANCE TODAY (SUNDAY) TO SEE THE WORK OF THE SERVICE AT THE CAREERS '84 EXHIBITION AT EDINBURGH PLACE.

FOLLOWING THE OPENING CEREMONY BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR DOUGLAS JORDAN, A SERIES OF DEMONSTRATIONS HIGHLIGHTING ASPECTS OF THE SERVICE'S ACTIVITIES WERE STAGED, INCLUDING A DRUG DETECTOR DOG SHOW AND DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE CONTROL OF DIESEL OIL.

TWO CUSTOMS LAUNCHES AT QUEEN'S PIER WERE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND A PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY OF THE DUTIES OF OFFICERS IN THE SERVICE WAS ON SHOW.

THE ACTIVITIES WERE PART OF THE CAREERS '84 EXHIBITION JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

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