DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1986

CONTENTS PAGE NO.

GOVERNOR TO SPEAK ON RADIO, TV 1
SIR DAVID LOOKS OVER PRINTING WORK 2
PROPERTY REVIEW SHOWS DROP IN VACANCY RATES 2
HOUSING PLANS FOR ELDERLY ENDORSED 6
EMERGENCY PAYMENT RATES UP BY 6.8 PER CENT 8
STRONG ACTION TAKEN AGAINST COUNTERFEITING 9
NOVEMBER EXTERNAL TRADE MOVEMENTS 10
INSIDER DEALING REPORT EXPECTED 15
GOVERNOR TO LEAVE FOR LONDON 15
GOVERNOR TO LOOK OVER YUEN LONG 16
GROUP RETURNING FROM U.K. 16
PUBLIC WARNED ABOUT FIRE HAZARDS 17
EMPLOYERS REMINDED ABOUT CONTRACTS 17
A WHEELCHAIR THAT TAKES COMMANDS 18
JACKIE CHAN HELPING TO DRAW ELECTORS 19
SHA TIN HERALDS NEW YEAR WITH LIGHTS 20
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC PLAN IN WESTERN DISTRICT 20
FURTHER JURY LIST TO BE POSTED 21
SITE FORMATION CONTRACT AWARDED 21
ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION FOR MARKET COMPLEX 22
EXHIBITION OF STUDENTS' WORK 22
WONG TAI SIN ROAD CLOSURE 22

GOVERNOR TO SPEAK ON RADIO, TV

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL DELIVER HIS NEW YEAR MESSAGE ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE, SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 8).

THE MESSAGE WILL BE BROADCAST AS FOLLOWS:

TELEVISION

	DATE AND TIME	
STATION	SATURDAY (FEB 8)	(REPEAT) SUNDAY (FEB 9)
TVB JADE	7.00 PM	12.00 NOON
TVB PEARL	7.25 PM	12.30 PM
ATV CHINESE	6.45 PM	12.15 PM
ATV ENGLISH	8.30 PM	12.10 PM

RADIO

	DATE AND TIME	
CHANNEL	SATURDAY (FEB 8)	(REPEAT) SUNDAY (FEB 9)
RTHK 1 AND 2 (CHINESE)	7.03 PM	1.03 PM
RTHK 3 (ENGLISH)	7.15 PM	9.02 AM
COMMERCIAL RADIO (CHINESE 1 AND 2)	6.10 PM	12.10 PM
COMMERCIAL RADIO (ENGLISH)	6.01 PM	12.01 PM

- - - - 0 - - - -

/2 .....

SIR DAVID LOOKS OVER PRINTING WORK
*****

SPECIAL FEATURES TO PREVENT FORGERY OF THE NEWLY-DESIGNED IDENTITY CARDS WERE AMONG SOME OF THE MATTERS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, DURING HIS VISIT TO THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT TODAY.

WATCHING WORK BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE SECURITY DIVISION, SIR DAVID ALSO LEARNED THAT SOME 1.6 MILLION NEW STYLE IDENTITY CARDS HAD BEEN PRINTED IN 1985.

AFTER A BRIEFING ON THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MR HARRIS MYERS, SIR DAVID WENT TO SEE HOW THE VARIOUS OTHER DIVISIONS, USING THE LATEST PRINTING PROCESSES, TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT, COPE WITH THE BIG TASK OF HANDLING ALL GOVERNMENT PRINTING.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAW FULLY COMPUTERISED ENGLISH LANGUAGE TYPESETTING WORK BEING CARRIED OUT, AND NOTED THAT FUNDS HAD BEEN APPROVED WHICH WOULD ENABLE CHINESE TYPESETTING TO BE COMPUTERISED SHORTLY.

THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT HAD MOVED TO ITS PRESENT PREMISES IN CORNWALL HOUSE, QUARRY BAY, IN JUNE LAST YEAR, AND IS OCCUPYING EIGHT FLOORS, COVERING 14 000 SQUARE METRES.

----0----

PROPERTY REVIEW SHOWS DROP IN VACANCY RATES
****

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE 1986 PROPERTY REVIEW INDICATE THAT VACANCY RATES IN THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE PROPERTY MARKET, EXCEPT FOR FLATTED FACTORIES, HAD FALLEN, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

FOLLOWING ARE SOME DETAILS:

PRIVATE DOMESTIC (ALL PREMISES)

BOTH SUPPLY AND TAKE-UP IN 1985 INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THOSE IN 1984. VACANCIES HAD FALLEN SLIGHTLY FROM 22 400 AT THE END OF 1984 TO 22 100 AT THE END OF 1985. (I.E. 3.7 PER CENT OF TOTAL STOCK).

A RECORD SUPPLY OF 37 100 UNITS IS EXPECTED IN 1986.

/PRIVATE .....

PRIVATE DOMESTIC (LARGE UNITS - 100 SQ. M AND OVER)

THERE WAS A REDUCTION IN THE TAKE-UP OF LARGE DOMESTIC FLATS - FROM 2 850 IN 1984 TO 2 000 IN 1985. SUPPLY INCREASED FROM 1 400 IN 1984 TO 1 950 IN 1985, AND THE VACANCY RATE FELL ONLY SLIGHTLY FROM 6.4 PER CENT AT THE END OF 1984 TO 5.8 PER CENT AT THE END OF 1985.

THE SUPPLY OF 2 900 LARGE FLATS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1986 REPRESENTS A 49 PER CENT INCREASE ON THE SUPPLY IN 1985.

COMMERCIAL

SUPPLY IN 1985 WAS MUCH THE SAME AS IN 1984. WITH AN IMPROVED TAKE-UP IN 1985, VACANCIES HAD FALLEN TO 9.0 PER CENT OF TOTAL STOCK AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

THE SUPPLY OF NEW COMMERCIAL PREMISES IN 1986 IS FORECAST TO BE 213 000 SQ. M.

FLATTED FACTORIES

THE TAKE-UP OF 397 000 SQ. M IN 1985 WAS LESS THAN HALF THE 1984 TAKE-UP AND WAS ALSO LOWER THAN THE ACTUAL SUPPLY OF 456 000 SQ. M. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN VACANCIES.

EXPECTED SUPPLY IN 1986 WILL EXCEED THAT IN 1985 BY NEARLY 90 PER CENT.

OFFICES

ALTHOUGH THE TAKE-UP IN 1985 AT 385 000 SQ. M WAS LOWER THAN THE 1984 RECORD TAKE-UP OF 449 000 SQ. M, IT EXCEEDED THE 1985 SUPPLY BY 77 000 SQ. M. AS A RESULT, VACANCIES FELL FROM 561 000 SQ. M AT THE END OF 1984 TO 484 000 SQ. M AT THE END OF 1985 (I.E. 11.1 PER CENT OF TOTAL STOCK).

ONLY 72 000 SQ. M ARE FORECAST FOR COMPLETION IN 1986 AND THE MAJORITY (78 PER CENT) OF THESE ARE SECTOR III OFFICES.

A SUMMARY OF SUPPLY, TAKE-UP AND VACANCY IN THE MAIN SECTORS IS SET OUT BELOW.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE FIGURES QUOTED IN THIS RELEASE ARE PRELIMINARY. FULL DETAILS WILL BE PRESENTED IN THE PROPERTY REVIEW 1986, EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED IN APRIL.

/IN THE .....

IN THE PROPERTY REVIEW 1986, +SALEABLE AREA+ WILL BE USED TO DESCRIBE THE SIZES OF DOMESTIC PREMISES. THE METHOD OF MEASUREMENT OF +SALEABLE AREA+ IS THE SAME AS +COVERED AREA+ USED IN PREVIOUS EDITIONS. HOWEVER, FOR NON-DOMESTIC PREMISES, +INTERNAL FLOOR AREA+ WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED. CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO CONVERTING THESE TO SALEABLE AREAS IN FUTURE.

PRIVATE DOMESTIC (ALL PREMISES)

(NO. OF UNITS)

	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%*
1983	21 600	26 200	24 400	4.5
1984	22 300	23 500	22 400	4.0
1985	29 900	29 500	22 100	3.7
1986	(37 100)			

'PRIVATE DOMESTIC' EXCLUDES FLATS BUILT UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME.

* VACANCY AT THE END OF THE YEAR AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL STOCK.

PRIVATE DOMESTIC (LARGER UNITS - 100 SQ. M AND OVER)

(NO. OF UNITS)

	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%
1983	2 600	1 800	4 400	9.9
1984	1 400	2 850	2 900	6.4
1985	1 950	2 000	2 750	5.8
1986	(2 900)			

COMMERCIAL

('000 SQ. M)

	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%
1983	270	243	541	10.1

/1984 .....

1984	255	229	550	9.0
1985	249	264	524	9.0
1986	(213)			

FLATTED FACTORIES

('000 SQ. M)

	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%
1983	621	727	1 089	8.9
1984	429	857	657	5.2
1985	456	397	716	5.5
1986	(863)			

OFFICES (ALL)

('000 SQ. M)

	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%
1983	591	371	793	20.6
1984	219	449	561	13.8
1985	308	385	484	11.1
1986	(72)			

OFFICES (SECTORAL ANALYSIS)

('000 SQ. M)

	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%
SECTOR I CENTRAL, GRADE A OFFICES				
1983	40	44	94	13.2

/1984 .....

1984	30	33	91	12.2
1985	163	153	101	11.1
1986	(7)			
SECTOR II	SHEUNG WAN, WAN CHAI, CAUSEWAY BAY AND TSIM SHA TSUI, GRADE A + CENTRAL, GRADE B OFFICES			
1983	234	118	235	19.7
1984	11	139	107	8.3
1985	93	90	110	8.5
1986	(9)			
SECTOR III	REMAINDER			
1983	317	209	464	23.9
1984	178	277	363	17.2
1985	52	142	273	12.6
1986	(56)			

----o----

HOUSING PLANS FOR ELDERLY ENDORSED

****

THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) AT A MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY) CONSIDERED A COMPREHENSIVE PAPER ON THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ON HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.

THE MEETING REAFFIRMED THE PRESENT POLICY OF ENCOURAGING FAMILIES TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR ELDERLY MEMBERS AND TO PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES TO ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO CANNOT BE ADEQUATELY HOUSED AND CARED FOR WITHIN THEIR FAMILIES.

IN THIS CONNECTION, MEMBERS STRESSED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR POLICIES WERE CONSISTENT AND CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS OBJECTIVE.

A CO-ORDINATED APPROACH IN THE PROVISION OF HOUSING TO THE ELDERLY AMONG GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND WELFARE AGENCIES WAS ENDORSED.

/IN FUTURE .....

IN FUTURE THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHELTERED HOUSING PROGRAMME WITH WARDEN SERVICE FOR THE ABLE-BODIED ELDERLY; WHILE THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND WELFARE AGENCIES WILL CONCENTRATE THEIR EFFORTS ON SUPPORT AND RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY IN NEED OF CARE.

IN THE LIGHT OF THIS ARRANGEMENT, THE SWAC ENDORSED A RECOMMENDATION NOT TO EXTEND THE SHELTERED HOUSING PROGRAMME (ALSO KNOWN AS THE GOLD COIN HOUSING SCHEME) AT PRESENT OPERATED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

IT ALSO ENDORSED PLANS BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TO SET UP SMALLER SCALE CARE-AND-ATTENTION UNITS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, AND TO INCORPORATE SUCH FACILITIES IN HOMES FOR THE AGED.

THE MEETING SUPPORTED THE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPLEX FOR THE ELDERLY AT WONG CHUK HANG AS A PILOT SCHEME PROVIDING AN INTEGRATED SERVICE APPROACH TO THE DELIVERY OF RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES FOR THE FRAIL AND SENILE ELDERLY.

MEMBERS EXPRESSED CONERN AT THE LACK OF RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE OLDER BUILT-UP URBAN AREAS, AND ADVISED THAT MORE EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO LOCATE SUCH SERVICES IN URBAN AREAS.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO CONSIDERED A REPORT ON THE 1984 SURVEY ON SOCIAL WELFARE MANPOWER PREPARED JOINTLY BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, TOGETHER WITH THE COMMENTS FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL WORK TRAINING AND THE GOVERNMENT.

THE MEETING NOTED THAT THE OVERALL WASTAGE RATE FELL SIGNIFICANTLY FROM 10.5 PER CENT IN 1981 TO 4.7 PER CENT IN 1984.

WITH THE IMPROVED SUPPLY SITUATION, THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE NEED TO RECRUIT A LARGE NUMBER OF NON-SOCIAL WORK TRAINED GRADUATES, BUT ADVISED THAT THE CURRENT RECRUITMENT FLEXIBILITY SHOULD BE RETAINED IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT VACANCIES WERE FILLED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IN THIS CONNECTION, MEMBERS NOTED THAT THERE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TWO UNIVERSITIES FOR SUCH RECRUITS.

THE SWAC ALSO ENDORSED A RECOMMENDATION IN THE REPORT THAT A SOCIAL WELFARE PERSONNEL INFORMATION SYSTEM BE SET UP TO COLLECT BASIC INFORMATION ON THE MANPOWER SITUATION.

- - - - O - - - -

/8 .....

EMERGENCY PAYMENT RATES UP BY 6.8 PER CENT

* * * *

PAYMENT RATES FOR PERSONAL INJURIES AND DEATH UNDER THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (ERF), WHICH PROVIDE CASH GRANTS TO PEOPLE IN NEED OF RELIEF AS A RESULT OF NATURAL OR OTHER DISASTERS, HAVE RECENTLY BEEN INCREASED BY AN AVERAGE OF 6.8 PER CENT.

THE REVISED RATES APPLY ALSO TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (TAVA) SCHEME AND THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION (CLEIC) SCHEME AS THEIR SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT IS BASED ON THAT OF THE FUND.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE REVISION, WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT LAST MONTH, INDICATED AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE LEVEL OF PAYMENT BASED ON INCREASES IN WAGES AND PRICES.

DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF GRANTS UNDER THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND ARE AVAILABLE TO COVER DEATH OR PERSONAL INJURY.

UNDER THE NEW RATES, THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT FOR DEATH GRANTS INVOLVING THE LOSS OF SOLE WAGE-EARNERS HAS BEEN RAISED FROM $38 500 TO $42 450, COMPRISING $29 950 FOR ONE SURVIVING DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBER AND $2 500 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL SURVIVING DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBER.

FOR LOSS OF A WAGE-EARNER WHERE THERE ARE OTHER WAGE-EARNERS IN THE FAMILY, THE MAXIMUM GRANT HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM $24 900 TO $27 480.

IN THE CASE OF THE LOSS OF A HUSBAND OR WIFE WHO IS NOT A WAGE-EARNER IN A FAMILY WHERE THERE ARE SURVIVING CHILDREN, THE MAXIMUM GRANT HAS ALSO GONE UP FROM $24 900 TO $27 480.

THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF DISABILITY GRANTS HAS BEEN RAISED FROM $32 640 TO $35 940. FOR INJURY GRANTS, THE NEW PAYMENT RATE IS $230 UP TO A MAXIMUM OF $9 970 DEPENDING ON THE GRAVITY OF THE INJURY. PREVIOUSLY, THE MAXIMUM WAS $9 590.

IN 1985, $3 MILLION WAS PAID OUT FROM THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND, $34.6 MILLION FROM THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND, AND $5.2 MILLION FROM THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME.

ALL THESE SCHEMES ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9 .....

STRONG ACTION TAKEN AGAINST COUNTERFEITING

* * * *

THE FIGHT AGAINST COUNTERFEITING AND COPYRIGHT PIRACY IN HONG KONG IS DIRECTED AT ALL LEVELS - FROM RETAILING AT STREET LEVEL, LARGE AND SMALL ESTABLISHED RETAIL PREMISES, MANUFACTURING OUTLETS AND ON IMPORT AND EXPORT.

THIS WAS SAID TODAY BY THE HEAD OF CUSTOMS TRADING STANDARDS INVESTIGATION BUREAU, MR JOHN HOWARD AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG SOUTH.

MR HOWARD SAID SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS ALSO PAID TO THE IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF SUSPECTED COUNTERFEIT GOODS AT ALL ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS BY THE 3 000 STRONG CUSTOMS OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

+OVER THE YEARS, SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS AGAINST SYNDICATES INVOLVED IN THE MAKING AND EXPORT OF COUNTERFEIT CASSETTE TAPES AND WATCHES BEARING WELL KNOWN TRADE MARKS WHICH HAVE BEEN FORGED HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED.

+IN ORDER TO PROTECT OWNERS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COVERING COMPUTERS AND THEIR ACCESSORIES, CUSTOMS OFFICERS HAVE TAKEN ENFORCEMENT ACTION UNDER BOTH THE TRADE DESCRIPTION ORDINANCE AND THE COPYRIGHT ORDINANCE,+ HE SAID.

IN 1973, THE RECORDING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE 50 INFRINGING MUSIC CASSETTE TAPES FOR EVERY LEGITIMATE COPY SOLD.

MR HOWARD SAID THAT WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THE COPYRIGHT ORDINANCE IN 1973, CUSTOMS OFFICERS' TOOK VIGOROUS ACTION ON MUSIC PIRACY.

+AFTER A FEW YEARS' CONTINUOUS EFFORT, THE LATEST REPORT FROM THE MUSIC INDUSTRY REVEALED THAT 99 PER CENT OF ALL SALES ARE LEGITIMATE PRODUCTS,+ HE SAID.

+IT CAN BE SAID BY THE PRESENT SITUATION THAT MUSIC PIRACY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CONTAINED BECAUSE NO INFRINGING MUSIC CASSETTE TAPES HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN THE LOCAL MARKET.+

MR HOWARD SAID THAT WITH THE ADVENT OF VIDEO EQUIPMENT, PIRACY OF CINEMATOGRAPH FILMS AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS IN THE FORM OF VIDEO CASSETTE TAPES BECAME A PROBLEM IN 1979.

+SINCE THEN, CUSTOMS OFFICERS TAKE CONTINUOUS ACTION AND CRACK DOWN SYNDICATES ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURE, EXPORT AND RETAIL SALE OF INFRINGING VIDEO CASSETTE TAPES. PROBLEMS RELATING TO VIDEO PIRACY HAVE BEEN GREATLY REDUCED,+ HE SAID.

THE RECENT REDUCTION IN PHOTOCOPYING COST HAD LED TO THE PROBLEM OF LITERARY WORK PIRACY, HE SAID.

/AS UNAUTHORISED .....

AS UNAUTHORISED PHOTOCOPYING OF ENGLISH TEXTBOOKS AND REFERENCE BOOKS WAS INCREASING, IN 1984 AND 1985, CUSTOMS OFFICERS CARRIED OUT AN OPERATION IN WHICH A LARGE NUMBER OF BOOKSHOPS AND PHOTOCOPYING SHOPS WERE RAIDED.

+AS A RESULT, THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN GREATLY REDUCED.+

+THE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS A CONSTANT SURVEY ON THE MARKET SITUATION. MORE RECENTLY AN OPERATION AGAINST UNAUTHORISED +IN STORE+ TAPING OF SOUND RECORDINGS TOOK PLACE. TWENTY-SEVEN TRADING PREMISES WERE RAIDED, RESULTING IN THE SEIZURE OF 61 INFRINGING AUDIO TAPES, 23 AMPLIFIERS AND 33 CASSETTE RECORDERS VALUED AT $200 000,+ HE SAID.

POINTING OUT THAT INTERNATIONAL TRADE WAS THE MAINSTAY OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, MR HOWARD SAID, +IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF ITS TRADING SYSTEM, HONG KONG HAS TO TAKE PARTICULAR CARE TO PROTECT ITS INTERNATIONAL TRADING IMAGE.

+AND HONG KONG'S EFFORTS TO FIGHT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY VIOLATORS ARE WELL RECOGNISED INTERNATIONALLY.+

- - - - o - - - -

NOVEMBER EXTERNAL TRADE MOVEMENTS

* * * *

COMPARING THE FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF 1985 WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECLINED BY 7 PER CENT WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 27 PER CENT, GIVING AN INCREASE OF 5 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

IMPORTS INCREASED BY 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS REMAINED UNCHANGED AND THOSE OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 1 PER CENT. PRICES OF IMPORTS DROPPED BY 3 PER CENT.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE COMPILED. VOLUMES OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM TRADE VALUES BY DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

COMPARING NOVEMBER 1985 WITH NOVEMBER 1984, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 5 PER CENT. WITHIN TOTAL EXPORTS, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 10 PER CENT WHILE THAT OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 2 PER CENT. THE LATTER INCREASE WAS THE FIRST IN EIGHT MONTHS, SUGGESTING THAT THE DECLINE IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS MIGHT HAVE BOTTOMED OUT. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 4 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS DROPPED BY 4 PER CENT AND 1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, SO THAT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, PRICES DECREASED BY 3 PER CENT. PRICES OF IMPORTS DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT.

/EXTENDING THE .....

EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF COMPARISON TO THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 1985 WITH THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 1984, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 6 PER CENT, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 27 PER CENT, GIVING AN INCREASE OF 6 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. MEANWHILE, THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 6 PER CENT. PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE, ON AVERAGE, BY 1 PER CENT AND 2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THAT OF IMPORTS DROPPED BY 2 PER CENT.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP FOR NOVEMBER AND FOR JANAURY-NOVEMBER OF 1985 AS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIODS IN 1984 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1. THIS TABLE, TOGETHER WITH TWO OTHER TABLES IS BEING SENT BY FACSIMILE NETWORK, AND WILL BE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

AS CAN BE SEEN FROM TABLE 1, DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES OF MANY COMMODITY GROUPS FELL IN NOVEMBER 1985 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1984. THESE INCLUDED METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-14%); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-13%); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-12%); TEXTILE FABRICS (-9%); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-5%); CLOTHING (-4%); FOOTWEAR (-4%) AS WELL AS TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-2%). INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR COMMODITY GROUPS SUCH AS ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+5%); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+3%); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+2%) AS WELL AS METAL MANUFACTURES (+1%).

THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF MANY COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN NOVEMBER 1985 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1984, THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL ONES BEING WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+27%); TEXTILE FABRICS (+16%); CLOTHING (+13%); FOOTWEAR (+10%); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+8%) AS WELL AS TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+2%). HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-45%); ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-38%); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-23%); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-12%); METAL MANUFACTURES (-5%) AS WELL AS DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-1%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE; UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR NOVEMBER AND FOR JANUARY-NOVEMBER OF 1985 AS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIODS IN 1984 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORT PRICES OF SOME END-USE CATEGORIES DECREASED IN NOVEMBER 1985 AS COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1984, RANGING FROM 5 PER CENT FOR RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES TO 7 PER CENT FOR FUELS. THE IMPORT PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS AND CAPITAL GOODS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT AND 6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN NOVEMBER 1985 AS COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1984.

/MANY OF .....

MANY OF THE MAJOR IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS INCREASED IN VOLUME TERMS IN NOVEMBER 1985 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1984. SIGNIFICANT GROWTH WAS RECORDED FOR WHEAT AND FLOUR; SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD; LIVE POULTRY; FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS; FRUIT; MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS AS WELL AS CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS, OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR. HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR SUGAR; RICE; ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES TEA AND COFFEE AS WELL AS MILK, BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MANY CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED, THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL ONES BEING TOBACCO MANUFACTURES; WATCHES; CLOTHING; ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY; MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS AS WELL AS FOOTWEAR. HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS AS WELL AS PASSENGER MOTOR CARS.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SOME RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE IN NOVEMBER 1985 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1984, INCLUDING COTTON YARN AND THREAD; CHEMICAL ELEMENTS AND COMPOUNDS; WATCH AND CLOCK MOVEMENTS, CASES AND PARTS; WOVEN COTTON FABRICS; SPECIAL TEXTILE FABRICS FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSE; SILK FABRICS; FABRICS OF MAN-MADE FIBRES; RAW COTTON YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES AS WELL AS PAPER AND PAPERBOARD. DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS; WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK; FABRICS OF WOOL AND MIXTURES; WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; MAN-MADE FIBRES AS WELL AS YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DROPPED BY 16 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN NOVEMBER 1985 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1984.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SOME COMMODITIES DECREASED IN NOVEMBER 1985 OVER NOVEMBER 1984, THE SUBSTANTIAL ONES BEING OFFICE MACHINES; TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT; ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY. INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY OTHER THAN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AS WELL AS SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR NOVEMBER AND FOR JANUARY-NOVEMBER OF 1985 AS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIODS IN 1984 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF MANY END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN NOVEMBER 1985 WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1984, RANGING FROM 3 PER CENT FOR FUELS TO 52 PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS. HOWEVER, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS DECREASED BY 17 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER 1985 AS COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1984.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE NOVEMBER 1985 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS+, AVAILABLE LATER THIS MONTH AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT $2 PER COPY.

/Table 1 .....

Table 1 : Changes in domestic exports by commodity group

Commodity group	Comparing November 1985 with November 1984			Comparing Jan.-Nov. 1985 with Jan.-Nov. 1984		
	Value %	Unit value %	Volume %	Value %	Unit value %	Volume %
Clothing	+ 8	- 4	+13	- 6	+ 3	- 8
Textile fabrics	+ 6	- 9	+16	-11	- 4	- 7
Textile yarn and thread	+12	+ 3	+ 8	-19	+ 3	-22
Textile made-ups and related articles	+ 4	+ 2	+ 2	- 7	+ 6	-12
Radios of all kinds	-33	-13	-23	-30	- 5	-27
Electronic components	-35	+ 5	-38	-24	*	-24
Footwear	+ 6	- 4	+10	- 3	- 5	+ 2
Metal manufactures	- 4	+ 1	- 5	- 7	+ 4	-10
Metal ores and scrap	-53	-14	-45	-21	-16	- 5
Watches and clocks	+21	- 5	+27	+ 3	-13	+19
Travel goods, handbags and similar articles	-14	- 2	-12	-22	+ 5	-26
Domestic electrical appliances	-14	-12	- 1	-13	- 8	- 6
All commodities	- 2	- 4	+ 2	- 7	*	- 7

* Insignificant, i.e. less than 0.5%

/Table 2 .....

Table 2 : Changes in imports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing November 1985 with November 1984			Comparing Jan.-Nov. 1985 with Jan.-Nov. 1984		
	Value	Unit value	Volume	Value	Unit value	Volume
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Foodstuffs	+11	- 6	+18	*	- 7	+ 7
Consumer goods	+14	+ 3	+10	+14	*	+14
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	+ 2	- 5	+ 7	- 4	- 4	*
Fuels	-22	- 7	-16	-13	- 6	- 7
Capital goods	-11	+ 6	-16	+14	- 1	+15
All commodities	+ 3	- 1	+ 4	+ 3	- 3	+ 6

Table 3 : Changes in re-exports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing November 1985 with November 1984			Comparing Jan.-Nov. 1985 with Jan.-Nov. 1984		
	Value	Unit value	Volume	Value	Unit value	Volume
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Foodstuffs	+51	- 1	+52	+17	*	+17
Consumer goods	+ 8	+ 2	+ 6	+27	+ 1	+26
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	+17	- 5	+23	+25	+ 1	+24
Fuels	+ 7	+ 4	+ 3	-17	+ 6	-22
Capital goods	-15	+ 2	-17	+48	+ 3	+43
All commodities	+ 9	- 1	+10	+29	+ 1	+27

* Insignificant, i.e. less than 0.5%

- - - - 0 - - - -

/15 .....

INSIDER DEALING REPORT EXPECTED

* * * *

THE INSIDER DEALING TRIBUNAL INQUIRING INTO DEALINGS IN THE SHARES OF INTERNATIONAL CITY HOLDINGS LTD IS EXPECTED TO REPORT TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY BETWEEN THE END OF FEBRUARY AND MID-MARCH, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE ADDED THAT AFTER THE SUBMISSION, ANY PERSON SUSPECTED OF BEING A CULPABLE INSIDER DEALER AND FOUND NOT CULPABLE WILL BE GIVEN SEVEN DAYS UNDER SECTION 141 I (5) OF THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE TO ELECT NOT TO BE NAMED IN THE REPORT.

+IT IS ENVISAGED THAT IT WOULD TAKE A FURTHER TWO WEEKS TO HAVE THE REPORT PRINTED FOR PUBLICATION. THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE REPORT WILL BE PUBLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UPON COMPLETION OF TRANSLATION,+ HE SAID.

THE TRIBUNAL COMMENCED IN NOVEMBER 1984 ITS INQUIRY INTO DEALINGS IN RELATION TO ORDINARY SHARES IN INTERNATIONAL CITY HOLDINGS OR ANY RELATED COMPANIES BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 1984 AND JUNE 30, 1984.

- - - - o - - - -

GOVERNOR TO LEAVE FOR LONDON

* * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL LEAVE FOR LONDON ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 8) ON FLIGHT CX201, ETD 10.55 PM.

- - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THERE WILL BE A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER SIR EDWARD'S DEPARTURE ON SATURDAY EVENING. THOSE COVERING THE EVENT SHOULD ASSEMBLE IN THE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM AT 10.05 PM.

GIS OFFICERS WILL ASSIST.

- - - - o - - - -

/16 .....

GOVERNOR TO LOOK OVER YUEN LONG

***

THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL VISIT YUEN LONG TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO SEE THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

HIS PROGRAMME INCLUDES VISITS TO THE POK OI HOSPITAL, THE WANG CHAU SERVICE RESERVOIR WHERE A BRIEFING WILL BE GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ENGINEER (NEW TERRITORIES), MR Y.Y. NG, ON TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT, AND THE YUEN LONG SPORTS ASSOCIATION CLUBHOUSE.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE VISIT. PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE WILL LEAVE CGO CARPARK AT 1.30 PM SHARP FOR YUEN LONG. GIS OFFICERS WILL ASSIST.

THOSE WHO WISH TO MAKE THEIR OWN WAY SHOULD ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE POK OI HOSPITAL, YUEN LONG, BEFORE 3 PM.

- - - - o - - - -

GROUP RETURNING FROM U.K.

***

THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION, LED BY THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR ALAN CARTER, WILL RETURN FROM LONDON TOMORROW (FRIDAY), AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH HOME OFFICE AND FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OFFICIALS ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S THREE REQUESTS CONCERNING THE DRAFT NATIONALITY ORDER.

THEY WILL BE TRAVELLING ON FLIGHT BA 3, ETA 4.40 PM.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE COVERAGE OF THE DELEGATION'S RETURN. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING NOT LATER THAN 3.50 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

GIS OFFICERS WILL ASSIST.

- - - - o - - - -

/17 .....

PUBLIC WARNED ABOUT FIRE HAZARDS

* * * *

THE PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE SPECIAL CARE AGAINST POSSIBLE FIRE HAZARDS CAUSED BY THE BURNING OF JOSS STICKS AND JOSS PAPER DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP SAID THAT WITH THE TRADITIONAL WORSHIPPING RITUALS AND THE FREQUENT USE OF COOKING STOVES DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON, FIRE RISKS TEND TO BE MUCH HIGHER.

ACCORDING TO LAST YEAR'S STATISTICS, OVER 160 FIRES WERE CAUSED BY THE BURNING OF WORSHIPPING ITEMS ALONE, AND MANY OF THESE OCCURRED DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD.

+THE SIMPLE RULES TO REMEMBER IN PREVENTING FIRE ARE TO GIVE A LITTLE THOUGHT, APPLY YOUR COMMONSENSE AND BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE ALL THE TIME,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO BURN JOSS STICKS AND JOSS PAPER IN METAL CANS, NOT TO FILL A KEROSENE STOVE OR HEATER WHEN IT IS ALIGHT NOR TO STORE MORE THAN ONE CONTAINER OF FUEL AT HOME.

THOSE WHO INTEND TO VISIT THE COUNTRYSIDE DURING THE HOLIDAYS SHOULD TAKE CARE TO PREVENT THE OUTBREAK OF HILL FIRES.

+REMEMBER TO BARBECUE ONLY AT DESIGNATED PITS AND EXTINGUISH ALL FIRES BEFORE LEAVING THE SITES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH IT IS BEST NOT TO SMOKE AT ALL IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, IF PEOPLE DO, THEY MUST DISPOSE OF THEIR CIGARETTE ENDS AND SPENT MATCHES PROPERLY.

+HELP PREVENT FIRE, AND DON'T LET IT RUIN YOUR NEW YEAR,+ HE SAID.

- - - - O - - - -

EMPLOYERS REMINDED ABOUT CONTRACTS

* * * *

AN EMPLOYER OR HIS AGENT IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF $50 000 IF HE FAILS TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH A MANUAL WORKER TAKING UP EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

THE FINE IS ALSO APPLICABLE IF THE EMPLOYER FAILED TO PRESENT THE CONTRACT TO LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR ATTESTATION BEFORE THE WORKER LEAVES HONG KONG.

/THIS REMINDER .....

THIS REMINDER WAS GIVEN TODAY BY THE SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, MR LEUNG LIT-CHEONG.

UNDER THE CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG ORDINANCE, IT IS ALSO AN OFFENCE IF THE EMPLOYER INDUCES A WORKER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WHICH DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE ORDINANCE, OR COUNSELS A WORKER TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT BEFORE THE CONTRACT IS ATTESTED.

HE ALSO ADVISED LOCAL PEOPLE INTENDING TO WORK OUTSIDE HONG KONG TO ENSURE, IN THEIR OWN INTEREST, THAT THEIR EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN ATTESTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT BEFORE DEPARTURE.

ALTHOUGH HEAVY PENALTIES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED UNDER THE ORDINANCE, MR LEUNG SAID, ENFORCEMENT OF THE LEGISLATION DEPENDED MUCH ON WORKERS' INITIATIVE IN REPORTING OFFENDERS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PERSONS RESPONDING TO ADVERTISEMENTS AND OTHER PUBLICITY REGARDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE HONG KONG SHOULD CHECK WHETHER THE EMPLOYERS WAS LOCALLY BASED, OR REPRESENTED BY A LOCAL AGENT.

+THEY CAN ALSO CONTACT THE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FOR SUCH BACKGROUND INFORMATION,+ HE SAID.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, EMPLOYERS ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE SERVICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PROPER PROCEDURES TO RECRUIT WORKERS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG.+

SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER, THE SERVICE HAS BEEN OPERATING AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS ON THE 12TH FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL. THE TELEPHONES FOR ENQUIRIES ARE 5-8523535 AND 5-8523537.

- - - - o - - - -

A WHEELCHAIR THAT TAKES COMMANDS

* * * * *

ENGINEERING GRADUATES IN A GOVERNMENT WORKSHOP HAVE BUILT WITH THE AID OF CHIPS A WHEELCHAIR THAT CAN LISTEN TO AND OBEY VERBAL COMMANDS.

THE WHEELCHAIR, POWERED BY A CAR BATTERY, CAN MOVE IN ANY DIRECTION, INCLUDING REVERSING.

IT HAS TAKEN FIVE WEEKS FOR THE 23 APPRENTICES UNDER TRAINING AT THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO BUILD THE MECHANISED CHAIR CALLED +SPEECH CONTROL POWERED WHEELCHAIR+ (SCPW).

/THE TRAINING .....

THE TRAINING OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR SO KEUNG-FAI, SAID THE WHEELCHAIR CONSISTS OF A MECHANICAL TRANSMISSION UNIT, AN ELECTRICAL POWER SUPPLY AND A MOTOR CONTROL SYSTEM.

+THE CONTROL SYSTEM CONTAINS A 16-BIT SINGLE BOARD MICRO-COMPUTER WITH A USER-DEPENDENT SPEECH RECOGNITION CARD,+ HE SAID.

+THIS IS CAPABLE OF INTERPRETING THE PRE-ASSIGNED COMMANDS GIVEN BY THE USER AND ACTIVATES THE ELECTRO-MECHANICAL PARTS OF THE WHEELCHAIR ACCORDINGLY.

+ALL THESE ARE ASSEMBLED IN A COMPACT CASE AND CAN BE MOUNTED ON A CONVENTIONAL WHEELCHAIR WITHOUT DIFFICULTY,+ HE SAID.

MR SO SAID THE WHEELCHAIR HAD TO UNDERGO A PERIOD OF +LEARNING MODE+ DURING WHICH THE USER'S SPEECH COMMANDS FOR DIFFERENT MOTIONS WOULD BE ANALYSED AND STORED IN ITS MEMORY.

A VERBAL COMMAND MUST MATCH WITH ANY OF THE PRE-STORED SPEECH PATTERNS TO ENABLE THE WHEELCHAIR TO MOVE ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS, HE SAID.

IT COSTS $2 500 IN SPARE PARTS, TOGETHER WITH A BORROWED WHEELCHAIR AND A COMPUTER, TO ASSEMBLE THE PACKAGE NEEDED TO DEVELOP THE SCPW.

THE WHEELCHAIR STOPS AUTOMATICALLY WHEN CLOSE TO AN OBSTRUCTION.

----o----

JACKIE CHAN HELPING TO DRAW ELECTORS

*****

WORLD-RENOWNED KUNG FU FILM STAR JACKIE CHAN, A REGISTERED VOTER HIMSELF, TOOK TIME OFF FROM HIS BUSY SCHEDULE TODAY (THURSDAY) TO RECORD A MESSAGE TO PROMOTE THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 6.

HE WILL BE ADDING TO THE PUBLICITY WHICH WILL GO INTO FULL SWING AFTER THE CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

IN HIS MESSAGE JACKIE CHAN APPEALS TO ALL REGISTERED ELECTORS TO CAST THEIR VOTES FOR THE CANDIDATE OF THEIR CHOICE WHO CAN HELP IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG.

THE TAPE WILL BE PLAYED BY FOUR BROADCAST VEHICLES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WHICH WILL TOUR THE 19 DISTRICTS FROM FEBRUARY 20 TO MARCH 6 - TO REMIND PEOPLE OF THE ELECTION DAY.

/DECORATED WITH .....

DECORATED WITH POSTERS, THE BROADCAST VEHICLES WILL VISIT FOUR DISTRICTS DAILY FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM, TOURING BUSY AND POPULATED AREAS, SUCH AS HOUSING ESTATES, MARKET PLACES AND COMMERCIAL AND SHOPPING CENTRES.

THE TAPE WILL ALSO BE USED AT DISTRICT PUBLICITY FUNCTIONS, EXHIBITIONS, VARIETY SHOWS AND FORUMS.

- - - - O - - - -

SHA TIN HERALDS NEW YEAR WITH LIGHTS

* * * *

SHA TIN TOWN CENTRE WAS BRIGHTLY LIT UP WITH DECORATIVE LIGHTS THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING TO HERALD THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

AT THE FLICK OF A SWITCH, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY (DESIGNATE), MR PIERS JACOBS TURNED ON THE FESTIVE LIGHTINGS ALONG THE 200-METRE SAND MARTIN BRIDGE ACROSS THE SHING MUN RIVER.

THE DECORATIVE LIGHTS DEPICT FLOWERS AND PETS, SYMBOLISING PROSPERITY AND FORTUNE IN THE YEAR OF THE TIGER.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, MR JACOBS SAID TIGER IS KNOWN FOR ITS BRAVERY AND MIGHT AND, IN THE CHINESE ALMANAC, THESE SYMBOLISE POWER AND BOLDNESS.

SEEING THE RAPID DEVELOPMENTS OF SHA TIN IN RECENT YEARS, HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT THESE VIRTUES OF THE TIGER HAD BEEN SHARED BY ALL THOSE CONCERNED, HE SAID.

THE SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY WAS FOLLOWED BY LION DANCE PERFORMED BY THE DISTRICT'S JUNIOR POLICE CALL MEMBERS.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WERE THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR NG CHAN-LAM; DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG; CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING COMMITTEE ON THE FESTIVE LIGHTINGS IN SHA TIN, MR LAM HUNG-CHIU; OTHER DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND THE CHAIRMEN OF AREA COMMITTEES.

- - - - O - - - -

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC PLAN IN WESTERN DISTRICT

* * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT FROM MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 8) TO 8 AM THE NEXT DAY, THE LOADING AND UNLOADING AREA FOR GOODS VEHICLES ON KENNEDY TOWN NEW PRAYA BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 32 AND ITS JUNCTION WITH CADOGAN STREET WILL BE SUSPENDED.

AND THE SECTION OF CATCHICK STREET BETWEEN SMITHFIELD AND SANDS STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 8 AM TO 9.30 AM ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 11).

/WESTBOUND .....

WESTBOUND VEHICLES ON CATCHICK STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA SANDS STREET, BELCHER'S STREET AND CADOGAN STREET WHILE, EASTBOUND VEHICLES ON CATCHICK STREET WILL HAVE TO TRAVEL VIA SMITHFIELD AND KENNEDY TOWN NEW PRAYA.

GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 23 ON ITS JOURNEY TO POK FU LAM WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KENNEDY TOWN PRAYA, SANDS STREET, BELCHER'S STREET, CADOGAN STREET, CATCHICK STREET AND SMITHFIELD BEFORE RESUMING NORMAL ROUTEINGS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, THE EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS PROHIBITION ON CADOGAN STREET NORTH OF BELCHER'S STREET WILL ALSO BE SUSPENDED.

- - - - O - - - -

FURTHER JURY LIST TO BE POSTED

* * * *

A FURTHER LIST OF COMMON JURORS WILL BE POSTED ON THE NOTICE BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING AT NO. 38, QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG ON FEBRUARY 17, THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT, MR NICHOLAS JOHN BARNETT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THIS LIST WILL REMAIN POSTED FOR 14 DAYS, WHEN ANY PERSON MAY APPLY BY NOTICE IN WRITING TO THE REGISTRAR REQUIRING THAT HIS NAME OR THE NAME OF SOME OTHER PERSON BE POSTED OR REMOVED UPON CAUSE DULY ASSIGNED IN SUCH NOTICE.

THE REGISTRAR SHALL IN HIS DISCRETION, POST OR REMOVE SUCH NAME ACCORDINGLY AND SHALL IF NECESSARY ALTER THE LIST.

- - - - O - - - -

SITE FORMATION CONTRACT AWARDED

* * * *

A $61.8 MILLION CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED FOR SITE FORMATION AND OTHER ENGINEERING WORKS IN TAI PO.

THE CONTRACT, AWARDED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, INVOLVES FORMATION OF ABOUT 18 HECTARES OF LAND NORTH OF TAI YUEN ESTATE FOR A PROPOSED PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE AND OTHER USES.

IT ALSO INCLUDES CONSTRUCTION OF A 1 970-METRE TWO-WAY CARRIAGEWAY AROUND THE NEW ESTATE.

A FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS TING KOK ROAD, LINKING TAI YUEN ESTATE WITH THE NEW ESTATE, WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START THIS MONTH, AND TAKE ABOUT 30 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

- - - - O - - - -

/22 .....

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION FOR MARKET COMPLEX

* * *

A $3.66 MILLION CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED FOR THE ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION FOR A MARKET COMPLEX UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT THE JUNCTION OF MONG KOK ROAD AND FA YUEN STREET, KOWLOON.

THE 14-STOREY COMPLEX IS BEING BUILT FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ON A 1 600-SQUARE-METRE SITE PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED BY A HAWKER BAZAAR.

- - - - O - - - -

EXHIBITION OF STUDENTS' WORK

* * *

AN EXHIBITION OF STUDENTS' CREATIVE WORK WILL BE HELD IN THE CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FROM WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 12) UNTIL MARCH 1.

TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE EXHIBITION AT 4 PAK FUK ROAD, FOURTH AND FIFTH FLOORS, NORTH POINT.

ON DISPLAY WILL BE SELECTED ART WORK, GARMENTS AND NEEDLEWORK BY SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS, ART AND CRAFT WORK BY PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS, WINNING ENTRIES INCLUDING PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS IN LAST YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

THERE WILL ALSO BE CHILDREN'S ART WORK FROM THE UNITED STATES AND PAINTINGS BY KOREAN CHILDREN.

SCHOOLS PLANNING GROUP VISITS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY THE CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE AT TELEPHONE 5-629205 FOR ARRANGEMENTS.

- - - - O - - - -

WONG TAI SIN ROAD CLOSURE

* * *

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE VICINITY OF WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE FROM 6 PM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 8) TO 6 PM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE CROWD CONTROL IN THE AREA.

SHATIN PASS ROAD BETWEEN LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND FUNG TAK ROAD, AND THE UN-NAMED ACCESS ROAD BETWEEN WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE AND WONG TAI SIN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC. NO VEHICLES OTHER THAN GREEN MINIBUSES AND THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE CLOSED SECTIONS.

THE SAME MEASURES WILL BE REPEATED FROM 6.30 AM ON FEBRUARY 10 TO 6 PM THE NEXT DAY.

- - - - O - - - -