DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 1985

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MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH STARTS APRIL 1

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THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL ON APRIL 1.

THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WILL BE HEADED BY A NEW SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES. THE PRESENT DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR GRAHAM BARNES, J.P., HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO TAKE UP THIS POST ON APRIL 1. HE WILL BE ASSISTED BY TWO DEPUTY SECRETARIES, MRS MABEL HAYES AND MR PATRICK WILLIAMSON, J.P., AND MR WILLIAMSON'S POST WILL BE STYLED COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE.

STAFF OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WILL BE RE-DEPLOYED MAINLY FROM THE EXISTING URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT.

THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WILL ASSUME POLICY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE MATTERS FROM THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS, COUNTRY PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION, LIQUOR LICENSING, AND CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES AT THE TERRITORIAL LEVEL FROM THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH.

THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WILL ALSO ASSUME FROM THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH AND THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS RELATING TO THE MUSIC OFFICE AND THE PRINCIPAL SPORTING AND CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS. THESE WILL INCLUDE THE SERVICING OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT AND THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONS WITH THE ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, AND SPORTING AND CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

THE BRANCH WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE FUNCTIONS IN PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION WHICH DERIVE FROM THE NEED TO MAINTAIN COMMON DEPARTMENTAL GRADES FOR THE TWO DEPARTMENTS SERVING THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, I.E. THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WILL BE ACCOMMODATED AT 10/F AND 11/F OF HARBOUR CENTRE IN WAN CHAI.

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RECORD $60M RECOVERED BY LEGAL AID

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A RECORD SUM IN EXCESS OF $60 MILLION HAD BEEN RECOVERED THROUGH LEGAL AID FOR PERSONS WHO MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PURSUE THEIR CLAIMS IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1984-85, THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID, MR PATRICK MOSS SAID.

DURING THE YEAR, MR MOSS ADDED, LEGAL AID WAS GRANTED TO OVER 6 700 CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASE APPLICANTS, REPRESENTING OVER ONE-THIRD OF THE TOTAL NUMBER WHO APPLIED.

MR MOSS EXPLAINED THAT IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR LEGAL AID, AN APPLICANT MUST PASS A MEANS TEST AND A MERITS TEST.

AT PRESENT, A PERSON HAVING A DISPOSABLE INCOME OF NOT MORE THAN $1 500 PER MONTH AND DISPOSABLE CAPITAL NOT EXCEEDING $15 000 IS FINANCIALLY ELIGIBLE.

DISPOSABLE INCOME AND DISPOSABLE CAPITAL ARE CALCULATED AFTER ALLOWANCES HAVE BEEN DEDUCTED FROM ACTUAL EARNINGS AND CAPITAL. SUCH ALLOWANCES INCLUDE A DEDUCTION OF UP TO $300 000 IN RESPECT OF AN OWNER OCCUPIED DWELLING.

A PERSON MAY QUALIFY FOR LEGAL AID FREE OF CHARGE OR MAY BE REQUIRED TO PAY A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS HIS OWN LEGAL COSTS DEPENDING ON THE AMOUNT OF HIS DISPOSABLE INCOME AND CAPITAL.

ANY CONTRIBUTION WILL, HOWEVER, BE REFUNDED IF THE PROCEEDINGS ARE SUCCESSFUL AND THE COSTS INCURRED BY THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT ARE RECOVERED FROM THE OPPOSING PARTY.

IF THE AIDED PERSON IS UNSUCCESSFUL HIS LIABILITY TOWARDS THE COSTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS INCLUDING THOSE OF THE OTHER PARTY IS LIMITED TO THE AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION, IF ANY, THAT HE IS REQUIRED TO PAY AT THE OUTSET OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

IN ADDITION TO THE MEANS TEST, MR MOSS SAID, AN APPLICANT MUST SATISFY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID THAT HE HAD REASONABLE PROSPECTS OF SUCCEEDING IN HIS CASE TO QUALIFY FOR LEGAL AID IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

IN FACT, HE SAID, A MAJORITY OF THE UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FAILED IN THE MERITS TEST RATHER THAN THE MEANS TEST.

+IF AN APPLICANT IS REFUSED LEGAL AID IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS, HE IS ENTITLED TO APPEAL SUCH REFUSAL TO THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT, OR IN THE CASE OF A PROPOSED APPEAL TO THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL TO A SPECIAL TRIBUNAL,+ HE SAID.

+THE DECISION OF THE REGISTRAR OR OF THE SPECIAL TRIBUNAL IS FINAL,+ MR MOSS SAID.

/ONCE LEGAL .....

ONCE LEGAL AID IS GRANTED, THE DIRECTOR WILL ASSIGN THE CASE EITHER TO A PRIVATE SOLICITOR OR A BARRISTER EXPERIENCED IN THE CONDUCT OF SUCH CASES, OR TO ONE OF HIS OWN PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS.

AN APPLICANT FOR LEGAL AID IN A CIVIL CASE CAN NOMINATE THE LAWYER OF HIS OWN CHOICE TO REPRESENT HIM AND PROVIDED THAT THAT LAWYER IS ON THE LEGAL AID PANEL AND IS AVAILABLE TO CONDUCT THE CASE, HE WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO ACT FOR THE AIDED PERSON. THE LAWYER THUS ASSIGNED IS PAID BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID FOR ALL FEES INCURRED ON BEHALF OF THE AIDED PERSON.

+THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT KEEPS UNDER REVIEW THE LEVEL OF ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL AID WHICH WAS LAST AMENDED IN JANUARY 1983 BUT ANY INCREASES ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND PRIORITY OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS,+ MR MOSS SAID.

LEGAL AID IS AVAILABLE FOR A WIDE RANGE OF CIVIL PROCEEDINGS IN THE DISTRICT COURTS, HIGH COURT AND COURT OF APPEAL AND IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR CERTAIN TENANCY MATTERS IN THE LANDS TRIBUNAL AND FOR APPEALS TO THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL IN LONDON.

CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION ARISING OUT OF ACCIDENTS AT WORK, EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION AND ROAD ACCIDENT CLAIMS TOGETHER WITH EVERY BRANCH OF FAMILY LAW, RANGING FROM DIVORCE, SEPARATION, MAINTENANCE AND CUSTODY OF CHILDREN ALL LIE WITHIN THE SCOPE AND JURISDICTION OF THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT.

ACTIONS IN BANKRUPTCY AND COMPANIES WINDING-UP PROCEEDINGS ARE ALSO UNDERTAKEN AND THE MAJORITY OF THESE CASES ARE OF CONSIDERABLE SOCIAL IMPORTANCE SINCE THEY DEAL IN THE MAIN WITH EMPLOYEES' WAGES AND SEVERANCE PAY CLAIMS.

FOR CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, LEGAL AID IS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT COURTS, THE HIGH COURT AND THE COURT OF APPEAL AND IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES TO THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL IN LONDON.

INVARIABLY, LEGAL AID IS GRANTED FOR HIGH COURT CRIMINAL TRIALS SUBJECT TO THE MEANS TEST BECAUSE OF THE SEVERITY OF THE CHARGES, COUPLED WITH THE GRAVITY OF THE SENTENCE UPON CONVICTION. LEGAL AID CAN ALSO BE GIVEN TO CONDUCT PLEAS IN MITIGATION OF SENTENCE.

FOR APPEALS AGAINST CONVICTION FOR MURDER LEGAL AID IS MANDATORY BUT FOR ALL OTHER CRIMINAL APPEALS INCLUDING THOSE FROM THE DECISIONS OF MAGISTRATES, THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID WILL PROVIDE REPRESENTATION SUBJECT TO THE MEANS TEST AND TO THE EXISTENCE OF ARGUABLE GROUNDS OF APPEAL.

/MR MOSS .....

MR MOSS SAID THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS IN AN INDICTABLE OFFENCE) ORDINANCE 1983 HAD EXTENDED THE SCOPE OF LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS TO INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF ADVICE TO FINANCIALLY ELIGIBLE DEFENDANTS PRIOR TO COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS AND TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN THE PROCEEDINGS LEADING TO THEIR COMMITTAL TO THE HIGH COURT FOR TRIAL.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO CONSIDERING EXTENDING LEGAL AID TO INCLUDE THOSE PERSONS CHARGED WITH PERJURY AND CONTEMPT OF COURT IN THE DISTRICT COURT AND FOR THOSE BROUGHT BACK TO COURT AFTER BREACH OF A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER.

A SUPPLEMENTARY LEGAL AID SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IN OCTOBER 1984 TO ENABLE THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE FINANCIALLY INELIGIBLE FOR LEGAL AID UNDER THE EXISTING LIMITS BUT WHO ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD THE SERVICES OF PRIVATE LAWYERS TO BRING PROCEEDINGS IN THE HIGH COURT FOR DAMAGES FOR PERSONAL INJURIES OR DEATH.

AT THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF SUCH A CASE A PERCENTAGE OF THE DAMAGES THAT THE APPLICANT HAS BEEN AWARDED WILL BE PAID BACK TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY LEGAL AID SCHEME FUND SO AS TO PROVIDE MONIES TO ENABLE OTHER CLAIMANTS TO PURSUE THEIR CLAIMS IN A SIMILAR MANNER.

APPLICATION FOR LEGAL AID MAY BE MADE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICES AT SINCERE BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, NO. 173 DES VOEUX ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG OR AT RITZ BUILDING, 8TH FLOOR, NO. 625 NATHAN ROAD, MONG KOK, BUT APPLICATIONS FOR LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL CASES MAY ONLY BE MADE AT THE HONG KONG OFFICE.

THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG ALSO PROVIDES FREE LEGAL ADVICE IN CIVIL MATTERS BEFORE PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED AND FREE LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO DEFENDANTS IN CERTAIN CRIMINAL CASES IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURTS AND FOR SERIOUS OFFENCES IN THE JUVENILE COURTS. THESE SCHEMES ARE FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION WHICH IN 1984 TOTALLED $14.83 MILLION.

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YEARBOOK RECORDS A MOMENTOUS YEAR

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THE OFFICIAL YEARBOOK, HONG KONG 1985 -- WHICH GIVES A HISTORICAL RECORD OF A MOMENTOUS YEAR IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY, IS NOW AVAILABLE.

PRICED AT $32 A COPY, THE YEARBOOK IS AVAILABLE IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH EDITIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL= LEADING BOOKSHOPS AND DISTRICT OFFICES.

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THE FIRST CHAPTER PROVIDES A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE SINO-BRITISH NEGOTIATIONS ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE, RIGHT UP TO THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT ON DECEMBER 19.

IT ALSO COVERS THE WORK OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE WHICH COLLATED PUBLIC OPINION IN HONG KONG AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 26, AND THE ROLE PLAYED BY UMELCO. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE COLOUR PICTURES OF THE CEREMONIES IN WHICH THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED AND THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS INITIALLED.

HONG KONG 1985 RUNS TO MORE THAN 350 PAGES WITH 10 SECTIONS OF COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS, IN ADDITION TO DETAILED APPENDICES.

AN AUTHORITATIVE REFERENCE BOOK, THE YEARBOOK PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE OF MATERIAL FOR ANYONE WANTING UP-TO-DATE AND DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY.

THIS YEAR THE YEARBOOK HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO 23 CHAPTERS, INSTEAD OF THE USUAL 22, AND AMONG THE SUBJECTS COVERED IN DETAIL IS THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN THE TERRITORY. THE ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, HEALTH, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, SOCIAL WELFARE AND LAW AND ORDER ARE ALSO DEALT WITH COMPREHENSIVELY.

THE MORE THAN 90 COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS COVER HEALTH, THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES, COMMUNICATIONS, NEW TOWNS, INDUSTRY, HONG KONG IN 1984, THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB CENTENARY, AND EARLY PHOTOGRAPHERS IN HONG KONG.

HONG KONG 1985 IS PRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, ASSISTED BY THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION OF THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH, AND PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

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$35 MILLION FOR DISTRICT BOARD PROJECTS

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A SUM OF $35 MILLION HAS BEEN PROPOSED FOR THE 19 DISTRICT BOARDS TO CARRY OUT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR C.M. LEUNG SAID TODAY.

THE AMOUNT, IF APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WILL BE $1.14 MILLION OVER LAST YEAR'S FIGURE.

MR LEUNG SAID THE FUNDS WOULD BE SHARED BETWEEN THE NINE NEW TERRITORIES BOARDS AND THE 10 URBAN BOARDS.

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OF THE TOTAL, $19.72 MILLION WILL BE ALLOCATED TO THE NEW TERRITORIES BOARDS AND $15.35 MILLION TO THE URBAN BOARDS.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI WILL GET THE BIGGEST SHARE OF $3.34 MILLION, FOLLOWED BY YUEN LONG $3.01 MILLION, SHA TIN $2.6 MILLION AND TUEN MUN $2.51 MILLION.

TSUEN WAN WILL RECEIVE $2.23 MILLION; NORTH DISTRICT $1.56 MILLION; ISLANDS DISTRICT $1.51 MILLION; TAI PO $1.5 MILLION, AND SAI KUNG WILL GET $1.46 MILLION.

IN THE URBAN AREAS, KWUN TONG WILL RECEIVE $2.24 MILLION AND WONG TAI SIN $2.19 MILLION.

SHAM SHUI PO AND EASTERN WILL BOTH GET $1.76 MILLION; KOWLOON CITY $1.74 MILLION; SOUTHERN $1.42 MILLION; CENTRAL AND WESTERN $1.07 MILLION; WAN CHAI AND MONG KOK WILL EACH RECEIVE $1.06 MILLION, AND YAU MA TEI WILL HAVE $1.05 MILLION.

MR LEUNG SAID THE ALLOCATIONS WERE MAINLY DETERMINED BY THE SIZE OF THE POPULATION, PAST EXPENDITURE PATTERN AND THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR ACTIVITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DISTRICTS.

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30 BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN JANUARY

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE APPROVED 30 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN JANUARY 1985.

THESE INCLUDED A CLUB HOUSE AT THE JUNCTION OF CAROLINE HILL ROAD AND LEIGHTON ROAD, 10 THREE-STOREY RESIDENCE BLOCKS AT DEEP WATER BAY ROAD, OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES FOR THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, A 22-STOREY HOTEL BUILDING IN MONG KOK, AN 11-STOREY FACTORY BUILDING IN KOWLOON BAY AND A TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IN SHA TIN FOR THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

OF THE PLANS APPROVED, 13 WERE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, SEVEN IN KOWLOON AND 10 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

DURING THE MONTH, THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 36 PROJECTS, NINE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, SEVEN IN KOWLOON AND 20 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE INCLUDED A SCHOOL AT RENFREW ROAD IN KOWLOON TONG, AN OFFICE IN THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, 39 RESIDENCES IN HONG LOK YUEN IN TAI PO, A FOOD FACTORY AT HA HANG IN TAI PO AND TWO ELECTRICITY SUBSTATIONS, ONE IN SHA TIN AND THE OTHER IN TSUEN WAN.

/THE TOTAL .....

THE TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF THESE 36 PROJECTS WAS 339 881.3 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 209 095.5 SQUARE METRES WERE FOR NON-DOMESTIC PURPOSES AND THE REMAINDER FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

A TOTAL OF 24 OCCUPATION PERMITS WERE ISSUED FOR NEWLY COMPLETED BUILDINGS DURING THE MONTH.

THESE INCLUDED THREE 13-STOREY APARTMENT BLOCKS AT WONG NAI CHUNG GAP, TWO COMMERCIAL TOWER BLOCKS IN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, A SCHOOL BUILDING IN TIN KWONG ROAD, EIGHT RESIDENCES AT PAN LONG WAN IN SAI KUNG, AND THREE APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL BLOCKS IN SHA TIN.

THE TOTAL FLOOR AREA FOR ALL NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS 172 263.2 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 140 967.6 SQUARE METRES WERE FOR NON-DOMESTIC PURPOSES AND THE REMAINDER FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COSTS OF THESE BUILDINGS WAS ABOUT $1 331.2 MILLION.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO ISSUED 16 DEMOLITION ORDERS IN RESPECT OF 19 BUILDINGS DURING THE MONTH.

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POST OFFICE PUTTING OUT THREE NEW ITEMS

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THE POST OFFICE WILL BE PUTTING THREE NEW PRODUCTS ON SALE FROM APRIL 1.

ONE OF THESE IS A NEW, ATTRACTIVELY DESIGNED A4 SIZE PICTORIAL AEROGRAMME WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES, SUPPLEMENTING THE EXISTING AEROGRAMME FEATURING THE CLOUD FORMATION.

THE NEW AEROGRAMME DESIGNED BY MR D.J. LEONARD AND PRINTED ON BEIGE COLOUR PAPER BY MCCORQUADALE ENVELOPE LTD. IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FEATURES THE BAUHINIA BLAKEANA, FLOWER OF HONG KONG.

+AT A PRICE OF $1.10, THIS PICTORIAL AEROGRAMME PROVIDES AN IDEAL WAY TO COMBINE A PERSONAL LETTER WITH A FORM OF GREETING FROM HONG KONG AS FEATURED IN THE FLOWER THAT TYPICALLY REPRESENTS OUR TERRITORY,+ A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ON THE SAME DAY, A SPECIALLY DESIGNED STAMP FOLDER WHICH HOLDS TEN $1.30 STAMPS WILL BE ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES, AT $13.

/THE FOLDER, ...

THE FOLDER, ON WHICH IS PRINTED RELEVANT AIRMAIL POSTAGE INFORMATION, IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A CONVENIENT MEANS TO STORE AND PROTECT STAMPS CARRIED IN WALLETS OR HANDBAGS ETC. TO MEET FUTURE POSTAL USE REQUIREMENTS AND AS A NOVEL PHILATELIC ITEM FOR TOURISTS, THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

AND TWO NEW, ATTRACTIVELY DESIGNED PACKS CONTAINING THE CURRENT ISSUE OF DEFINITIVE STAMPS, WILL ALSO BE ON SALE.

THESE PACKS, WHICH CAN BE SENT AS GIFTS TO FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OVERSEAS, WILL BE OF INTEREST TO PHILATELISTS, AS THEY SERVE AS VALUABLE COLLECTIONS OF THE HONG KONG POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE LARGE PACK CONTAINS FULL SET OF 16 DEFINITIVE STAMPS WHILE THE SMALL PACK CONTAINS THE LOW VALUE STAMPS UP TO $2.

THE LARGE PACK WILL BE SOLD FOR $95 AND THE SMALL PACK FOR $10. THESE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE PHILATELIC COUNTERS AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, PEAK, TSIM SHA TSUI, AIRPORT AND GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE.

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1984 CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES ANALYSED

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AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR 1984, PUBLISHED RECENTLY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, GIVES A COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF THE MOVEMENT OF CONSUMER PRICES AND DETAILED ANALYSES OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES DURING THE YEAR.

INCLUDED IN THE REPORT ARE FOUR CHARTS AND 10 TABLES SHOWING MOVEMENTS OF BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) BY SECTION AND GROUP OF COMMODITY-SERVICE AS WELL AS THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OVERALL CHANGE IN THE INDEXES.

THE REPORT IS ON SALE AT HK$7 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, OR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, ROOM 1904, 19TH FLOOR, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THIS REPORT CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NO. 3-7216512.

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PRIME VIEW GARDEN AND HOLFORD GARDENS READY SOON

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TRANQUILITY, SPACE AND LANDSCAPE ARE FAST BECOMING COMMON FEATURES AMONG THE LATEST GENERATION OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE NEW TOWNS.

BEING OFFERED FOR SALE UNDER PHASE VIIB OF THE SCHEME, BOTH PRIME VIEW GARDEN IN TUEN MUN AND HOLFORD GARDENS IN SHA TIN HAVE ALREADY CAUGHT THE EYE OF MANY HOME-SEEKERS ASPIRING FOR A COMFORTABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT.

THE TWO PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME PROJECTS ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR.

LOCATED AT A FOOTHILL CLOSE TO CASTLE PEAK ROAD IN TUEN MUN SAN HUI, PRIME VIEW GARDEN IS SET AMID QUIET AND GREEN SURROUNDINGS, WITH NICE VIEWS OF THE EXTENSIVE YUEN LONG PLAIN AND THE HILLS AROUND.

SPACIOUS LANDSCAPED REST GARDENS AND SITTING-OUT AREAS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED IN THE ESTATE, ADDING A SPLASH OF COLOUR TO THE FIVE 30/31-STOREY DOMESTIC BLOCKS WHICH ARE ALL LINKED UP BY COVERED WALKWAYS.

THE 1 520 TWO-BEDROOM FLATS ON THE ESTATE HAVE GROSS AREAS BETWEEN 42.4 AND 52.9 SQUARE METRES AND ARE PRICED FROM $103 500 TO $166 100.

APART FROM CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS AND A MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS FIELD, THE ESTATE WILL ALSO HAVE A COMMERCIAL CENTRE AND MULTI-STOREY CARPARK.

A NURSERY AND A KINDERGARTEN WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED, WHILE A PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED NEXT TO THE ESTATE.

IN ADDITION, WIDE-RANGING COMMERCIAL FACILITIES ARE READILY AVAILABLE AT SAN HUI, INCLUDING A MARKET NEARBY.

PRIME VIEW GARDEN IS WELL SERVED BY A VARIETY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT. A NUMBER OF BUS AND MINIBUS ROUTES TO TSUEN WAN AND KWAI FONG MTR STATIONS, KOWLOON, YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN FERRY PIER ARE READILY AVAILABLE JUST OUTSIDE THE ESTATE AND ALONG THE NEARBY CASTLE PEAK ROAD, WHILE IT ONLY TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES TO TRAVEL BY HOVERCRAFT FROM TUEN MUN TO CENTRAL DISTRICT. THE PROPOSED LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM WILL ALSO HAVE A ROUTE PASSING BY THE DEVELOPMENT.

LOCATED AT A PRIME SITE ALONGSIDE TAI PO ROAD IN TAI WAI, HOLFORD GARDENS IS THE FIRST PSPS DEVELOPMENT IN THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

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WITH A RANGE OF HILLS BEHIND IT, HOLFORD GARDENS ENJOYS UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS OF THE SCENIC SHA TIN VALLEY AND THE TRANQUILITY OF A RURAL SETTING.

ITS THREE 25/30-STOREY DOMESTIC BLOCKS, COMPRISING 800 TWO-BEDROOM UNITS, ONLY TAKE UP A SMALL PORTION OF ITS 1.32 HECTARE SITE, LEAVING THE REST FOR VARIOUS COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

A SPACIOUS COMMERCIAL CENTRE-CARPARK BLOCK IS PROVIDED IN THE ESTATE, WITH AMPLE SPORTS AND SITTING-OUT AREAS AROUND THE DOMESTIC BLOCKS.

BOTH THE NEW TAI WAI RAILWAY STATION NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND THE TAI WAI BUS TERMINUS ARE LOCATED OPPOSITE TO THE ESTATE. IT ONLY TAKES ABOUT 10 MINUTES TO TRAVEL BY TRAIN FROM THE NEARBY TAI WAI TEMPORARY RAILWAY STATION TO KOWLOON.

SIZES OF THE HOLFORD GARDENS FLATS VARY FROM 42.9 TO 53.1 SQUARE METRES, WITH PRICES RANGING FROM $164 200 TO $267 100.

APPLICATIONS FOR FLATS AT THE TWO PROJECTS TOGETHER WITH THOSE AT SUN LAI GARDEN IN NGAU CHI WAN AND GREENWOOD TERRACE IN CHAI WAN WILL CLOSE ON MARCH 25.

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NEW PERMIT OFFICE FOR WEST KOWLOON

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL OPEN A NEW RE-ENTRY PERMIT OFFICE ON THE GROUND AND FIRST FLOORS OF THE SUMMIT INSURANCE BUILDING, 789 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON ON MONDAY (MARCH 25).

THE NEW OFFICE - WEST KOWLOON RE-ENTRY PERMIT OFFICE - CAN HANDLE MORE THAN 1 000 RE-ENTRY PERMIT APPLICATIONS A DAY OR ABOUT THREE TIMES MORE THAN THE CAPACITY OF EITHER THE CENTRAL RE-ENTRY PERMIT OFFICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND OR THE EAST TSIM SHA TSUI RE-ENTRY PERMIT OFFICE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

HE SAID THAT WITH EFFECT FROM THE SAME DATE, BOTH THE EXISTING MONG KOK OFFICE AND SHAM SHUI PO OFFICE WOULD BE CLOSED.

APPLICANTS WHO HAD APPLIED FOR BRITISH PASSPORTS OR CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY AT THESE TWO OFFICES SHOULD APPROACH THE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS COLLECTION OFFICE AT IMMIGRATION HEADQUARTERS, MIRROR TOWER, GROUND FLOOR, 61 MODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, KOWLOON TO COLLECT THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.

/APPLICANTS WHO .....

[Missing two pages in the original document]

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE MAJORITY OF CASES BECAME KNOWN TO THE FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES AS A RESULT OF DIRECT APPROACH BY PEOPLE.

+OTHER CASES ARE REFERRED TO US BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS LIKE THE POLICE, THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE HOUSING, MEDICAL AND HEALTH AND LEGAL AID DEPARTMENTS,+ HE SAID.

+REFERRALS ARE ALSO RECEIVED FROM VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE COURTS.+

+SOME CASES BECOME KNOWN TO US THROUGH PUBLICITY IN THE MASS MEDIA,+ HE SAID.

+IN SUCH CASES, WE WILL REACH OUT TO THESE PEOPLE TO OFFER OUR HELP.+

SINCE OCTOBER 1980, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN OPERATING A HOTLINE (3-432255) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC ON SOCIAL WELFARE MATTERS.

+THE HOTLINE IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH WE GET TO KNOW OF CASES REQUIRING OUR ASSISTANCE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT IS MANNED BY TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS FROM 9 AM TO 10 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAYS, AND FROM 1 PM TO 10 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. OUTSIDE THESE HOURS, MESSAGES ARE RECORDED FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION. THE HOTLINE HANDLES ABOUT 20 000 CALLS EACH YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE SEEKING HELP FROM FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES TO GIVE ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THEIR PERSONAL AND FAMILY SITUATION SO THAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE SERVICES COULD BE RENDERED.

HE GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT ALL INFORMATION WOULD BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY LIFE AND TO PROMOTE HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR, HAS BEEN MOUNTING ANNUAL PROMOTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS SINCE 1978.

+ONE OF THE AIMS OF THESE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS IS TO PREVENT FAMILY PROBLEMS WHICH MAY LEAD TO SOCIAL PROBLEMS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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CORRECTIONAL SERVICES WORK ON DISPLAY

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AN EXHIBITION GIVING A COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE OF THE WORK OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE OPENED TOMORROW (MARCH 18) UNTIL THURSDAY (MARCH 21) AT THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY.

THE FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION, THE LARGEST EVER TO BE HELD BY THE DEPARTMENT ITSELF, WILL FEATURE ITS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF WORK SUCH AS THE DIFFERENT CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES ADMINISTERED AT DIFFERENT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS; THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING, EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES PROVIDED; THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES; THE AFTER-CARE SERVICES FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS AND DRUG DEPENDENTS ON DISCHARGE; THE MANAGEMENT OF CLOSED CENTRES FOR REFUGEES; AS WELL AS THE STAFF TRAINING FACILITIES AND THEIR WELFARE.

IN ADDITION, HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OVER ITS PAST 38 YEARS WILL BE DISPLAYED.

SOME OF THE PRODUCTS AND HANDICRAFTS MADE BY PRISONERS WILL ALSO BE DISPLAYED.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED TOMORROW AFTERNOON BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER.

IT WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 9 AM TO 8 PM ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY (MARCH 19 AND 20) AND FROM 9 AM TO 3 PM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 21).

THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE, AT THE END OF TUNG TAU WAN ROAD, MAY BE REACHED BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT INCLUDING BUS ROUTE NOS. 6 AND 260 (STARTING FROM CENTRAL), 73 (FROM WAH FU ESTATE), 63 (FROM NORTH POINT) AND 14 (FROM SAI WAN HO).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT ITS STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE, 47 TUNG TAU WAN ROAD, STANLEY, AT 4.30 PM TOMORROW (MARCH 18).

PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED AND WILL LEAVE THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT 3.30 PM SHARP.

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CHILDREN'S LIBRARY FOR SAN PO KONG
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A 650 SQUARE-METRE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AT SAN PO KONG AS PART OF THE STAGE II OF CHOI HUNG ROAD PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT.

THE LIBRARY, LOCATED AT CHOI HUNG ROAD PLAYGROUND, IS A SINGLE-STOREY BUILDING WITH FACILITIES SUCH AS READING AREA, ACTIVITY ROOM, OFFICE, STOREROOM AND TOILET.

THERE WILL ALSO BE AN OPEN COURT, WITH TREES AND FLOWERS AT THE CENTRE OF THE LIBRARY.

THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THIS PROJECT WHICH IS EXPECTED TO START IN MAY AND BE COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER 1985.

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ORIENTAL STYLE GARDENS IN SHA TIN OPEN
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TWO GARDENS BUILT IN JAPANESE AND CHINESE STYLE NEXT TO THE FU SHAN CREMATORIUM IN SHA TIN WILL BE OPENED TOMORROW (MONDAY).

BUILT BY THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES SECTION OF THE SHA TIN URBAN SERVICES OFFICE, THE GARDENS COMPRISE THREE SECTIONS -- A JAPANESE GARDEN ADJACENT TO A PUBLIC CAR PARK, A CHINESE MEMORIAL GARDEN NEXT TO THE COLUMBARIUM AND SOME LANDSCAPE PLANTING AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CREMATORIUM COMPLEX.

MORE THAN 7 600 PLANTS, INCLUDING 33 SPECIES OF TREE AND BAMBOO, 36 SPECIES OF SHRUB AND 13 SPECIES OF GROUND COVER, HAVE BEEN PLANTED IN THE TWO GARDENS.

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SQUASH - A SPORT FOR THE MASSES
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SQUASH IN HONG KONG CAN NO LONGER BE REGARDED AS A SPORT FOR FOREIGNERS AND WEALTHY PEOPLE.

AND THE URBAN COUNCIL IS PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN PROMOTING THE SPORT AMONG THE PUBLIC BY PROVIDING THE NECESSARY VENUES THROUGHOUT THE URBAN AREAS.

DURING THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, MORE THAN 138 000 PLAYERS MADE USE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S 16 SQUASH COURTS.

/THIS REPRESENTS .....

THIS REPRESENTS A FIVEFOLD INCREASE OVER THE FIGURES RECORDED IN THE 1980/81 FINANCIAL YEAR, WHEN ONLY 21 900 PLAYERS MADE USE OF THE COUNCIL'S SIX SQUASH COURTS.

VIRTUALLY ALL URBAN COUNCIL SQUASH COURTS ARE FULLY USED DURING WEEKENDS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. EVEN THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, THE USAGE RATE IS AS HIGH AS 80 PER CENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL SAID TODAY THAT LOCAL SQUASH ENTHUSIASTS NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT MISSING SOME OF THE ACTION FOR WANT OF A COURT TO PLAY IN AS 39 ADDITIONAL SQUASH COURTS WILL BE COMPLETED OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS TO MEET THE GROWING DEMAND FOR SUCH FACILITIES.

+THE LARGEST SQUASH CENTRE, ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT $22 MILLION, WILL BE LOCATED AT A 2 000 SQUARE-METRE SITE FACING COTTON TREE DRIVE IN VICTORIA BARRACKS,+ HE SAID.

+WHEN COMPLETED IN MID-1986, THE TWO-STOREY SQUASH CENTRE WILL HOUSE 18 COURTS, ONE OF WHICH WILL BE USED AS AN EXHIBITION COURT FOR MAJOR TOURNAMENTS.

+THE EXHIBITION COURT WILL HAVE GLASS WALLS ON THREE SIDES AND A STAND FOR SOME 350 SPECTATORS. IT WILL BE THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG AND THE SECOND IN ASIA AFTER BRUNEI.+

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL IS PLANNING TO BUILD UP TO 200 SQUASH COURTS IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS IN LINE WITH THE STANDARD PROVISION OF ONE SQUASH COURT TO 10 000 PEOPLE AS LAID DOWN IN THE HONG KONG PLANNING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.

AS PROPER VENTILATION IS NEEDED FOR THIS HIGHLY-VIGOROUS GAME, ALL FUTURE SQUASH COURTS TO BE BUILT BY THE COUNCIL WILL BE AIR-CONDITIONED. MEANWHILE, PLANS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY TO AIR-CONDITION THE EXISTING ONES.

AT PRESENT, CHARGES FOR AN AIR-CONDITIONED COURT ARE $8 PER HALF-AN-HOUR SESSION AND $12 PER SESSION.

LOOKING BACK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPORT IN THE TERRITORY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID SQUASH WAS FIRST INTRODUCED TO THE LOCAL CHINESE COMMUNITY IN 1960 WHEN THE FIRST TWO SQUASH COURTS WERE BUILT IN VICTORIA PARK.

IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE 70S WHEN MORE URBAN COUNCIL FACILITIES WERE PROVIDED THAT SQUASH BECAME MORE POPULAR AMONG THE LOCAL CHINESE COMMUNITY.

+TODAY, SQUASH IS REALLY CATCHING ON IN HONG KONG BECAUSE THE SPORT, BEING TIME AND SPACE EFFICIENT, SUITS THE TASTE OF LOCAL SPORT ENTHUSIASTS,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

/+EVEN SINCE .....

+EVER SINCE 1981, THE COUNCIL IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HONG KONG SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION (SRA), ORGANISES AN ANNUAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP FOR MEN AND LADIES UNDER 23 YEARS OF AGE.

+IN ADDITION, THE SRA ALSO SPONSORS A SCHOOL TOURNAMENT EVERY YEAR TO STIMULATE YOUNGSTERS' INTEREST IN THE SPORT, AND A SQUASH LEAGUE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND MARCH EACH YEAR, WINNERS OF WHICH WILL REPRESENT HONG KONG IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP.+

LOCAL PROMOTERS ALSO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MAINTAINING PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE SPORT BY ATTRACTING SOME OF THE WORLD'S TOP-CLASS SQUASH PLAYERS TO COMPETE HERE.

WITH MORE MODERN SQUASH COURTS COMING ON STREAM IN THE FUTURE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL ALSO CONSIDER INVITING INTERNATIONAL SQUASH PLAYERS TO HOLD EXHIBITION MATCHES IN HONG KONG.

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SCHEME TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

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CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS TIME ON A SCHEME TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF WATER IN KAI TAK NULLAH AND KOWLOON BAY TYPHOON SHELTER.

THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION WORK WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

THE POLLUTED CONDITION OF KAI TAK NULLAH AND KOWLOON BAY TYPHOON SHELTER NEAR THE AIRPORT HAS REACHED AN UNSATISFACTORY STATE WITH THE RELEASE OF OBNOXIOUS HYDROGEN SULPHIDE GAS.

AS PART OF AN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM, THREE PUMPING STATIONS, AN OXYGEN STORAGE COMPOUND, A CONTROL HOUSE, A TRANSFORMER HOUSE AND ASSOCIATED PIPEWORKS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE PRESENT CONTRACT.

THESE WORKS WILL BE BUILT ON LAND ALONG THE SEAWALL AT THE UPSTREAM END OF THE TYPHOON SHELTER FOR INJECTING PURE OXYGEN INTO THE WATER TO REDUCE OXYGEN DEPLETION AND TO RAISE THE OXYGEN CONTENT IN THE WATER, THUS PREVENTING THE FORMATION OF THE FOUL SMELLING GAS.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED BY THE PLANNING DIVISION AND CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE CONSTRUCTION DIVISION OF THE LIQUID AND SOLID WASTES SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN SHAU KEI WAN
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FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 20), A SHORT SECTION OF THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF FACTORY STREET AT THE JUNCTION WITH TAI TAK STREET IN SHAU KEI WAN WILL BE DESIGNATED AS URBAN CLEARWAY.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE, NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGER OR GOODS BETWEEN 7 AM AND MIDNIGHT DAILY.

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NOTE TO TV NEWS EDITORS:

PLEASE BROADCAST THE ABOVE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YOUR MORNING TRAFFIC BULLETINS.

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