



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PROPERTY REVIEW 1982
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THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT'S 1982 PROPERTY REVIEW, WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED FOR SALE IN MID-APRIL, CONFIRMS THE DOWNTURN OF THE PROPERTY MARKET WITH INCREASED VACANCIES IN ALL SECTORS AND A GENERAL SOFTENING OF VALUES.

COMMENTING ON THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON (WEDNESDAY), THE COMMISSIONER FOR RATING AND VALUATION, MR RAYMOND FRY, NOTED THAT THE EASING OF THE MARKET WAS GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE SEEKING ACCOMMODATION.

HE REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT DEVELOPERS AND LANDLORDS HAD HAD A VERY GOOD FOUR TO FIVE YEARS AND THAT THE BALANCE HAD NOW SWUNG IN FAVOUR OF CONSUMERS.

THIS HAD LARGELY BEEN THE EFFECT OF MARKET FORCES PROVIDING THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM, HE SAID.

MR FRY POINTED OUT THAT THE PROCESS OF DOWNTURN HAD BEEN FAIRLY SLOW, EMPHASIZING THE UNDERLYING STRENGTH AND STABILITY OF THE MARKET DESPITE THE ADVERSE EFFECT OF CONTINUING HIGH INTEREST RATES. HE BELIEVED, IN THE FACE OF THE PRESENT HIGH VACANCY FIGURES AND THE GOOD SUPPLY OF NEW ACCOMMODATION COMING ON-STREAM OVER THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS, THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME FURTHER EASING OF VALUES BEFORE THE MARKET CONSOLIDATED.

HE NOTED THAT BOTH SALE PRICES AND RENTS HAD, DUE TO EXCESSIVE SPECULATION, BEEN PUSHED TO LEVELS WHICH WERE NOT SUSTAINABLE IN THE MORE BALANCED MARKET NOW OBTAINING. WITH A MUCH WIDER CHOICE AVAILABLE TO THOSE SEEKING ACCOMMODATION, LANDLORDS WOULD DO WELL TO APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF A GOOD TENANT. AS HE PUT IT, A GOOD TENANT MAY BE AN ASSET WORTH NOURISHING.

DOMESTIC:

IN REGARD TO THE DOMESTIC SECTOR, MR FRY SAID THAT SUPPLY AT NEARLY 35 000 UNITS WAS SOME 1.5 TIMES THE AVERAGE FOR THE DECADE AND WAS THE HIGHEST EVER ACHIEVED IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD. SOME 55 000 UNITS ARE FORECAST TO BE COMPLETED OVER THE TWO YEARS, 1982 AND 1983, AND A FURTHER 25 000 UNITS ARE EXPECTED IN 1984.

TOTAL DOMESTIC VACANCIES AT DECEMBER 1981 WERE CLOSE ON 30 000 UNITS, COMPARED WITH 17 000 UNITS VACANT A YEAR EARLIER. WHILE THIS REPRESENTS SOME 5.8 PER CENT OF THE YEAR-END STOCK SUCH A LEVEL WAS NOT ALTOGETHER UNEXPECTED GIVEN RECORD COMPLETIONS AND HIGH INTEREST RATES. THE POSITION ALSO REFLECTS THE LARGE SPECULATIVE ELEMENT INVOLVED IN DOMESTIC PROPERTY SALES OVER THE YEARS, 1979-1980, WHEN A LARGE PROPORTION OF PURCHASES WERE MADE NOT WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING A HOME BUT FOR ON-SELLING AT A PROFIT.

THE SOFTENING OF THE MARKET HAS, FOR MANY SPECULATORS, ELIMINATED THE PROSPECT OF REALISING A PREMIUM AND RENTS OBTAINABLE ARE NOT, IN MANY INSTANCES, SUFFICIENT TO COVER FINANCING COSTS AT CURRENT RATES OF INTEREST.

DESPITE THE CHANGED SITUATION, RENTALS CONTINUED TO INCREASE FOR ALL CLASSES OF ACCOMMODATION DURING 1981, WITH AVERAGE INCREASES RANGING FROM 29 PER CENT TO 37 PER CENT OVER 1980 FIGURES. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A SIGNIFICANT LEVELLING-OFF TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR. A BALANCED SUPPLY OF UNITS IN ALL CLASSES IN 1982, TOGETHER WITH THE AVAILABILITY FOR LETTING OF A PROPORTION OF CURRENTLY VACANT STOCK, SEEMS LIKELY TO HAVE A DAMPENING EFFECT ON RENTS AT LEAST FOR THE EARLY PART OF 1982. WHILE THE SALES MARKET WAS DULL, PARTICULARLY DURING THE LATTER HALF OF THE YEAR, RECORDED SALES ALSO SHOWED AN UPWARD MOVEMENT IN 1981 OVER 1980.

MR FRY POINTED OUT THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING THE GOVERNMENT'S VERY LARGE HOUSING PROGRAMME, THERE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE A SHORTFALL FOR SOME YEARS TO COME, A SHORTFALL THE PRIVATE SECTOR MUST HELP TO FILL. THE OBJECT MUST BE TO BRING THE COST OF HOUSING WITHIN THE AFFORDABLE LEVEL OF THOSE SEEKING HOMES.

HE MENTIONED THAT AN INCREASED DEMAND FOR HOUSING WAS LIKELY TO BE GENERATED BY CHINA'S NEEDS, BOTH IN TRADING AND THE PROVISION OF SERVICES, GOVERNMENT'S HOME PURCHASE SCHEME FOR CIVIL SERVANTS AND GOVERNMENT'S HOUSING REQUIREMENTS FOR STAFF SO ENTITLED.

COMMERCIAL:

IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR, SUPPLY FOR THE YEAR WAS 314 000 SQUARE METRES, AN INCREASE OF 15 PER CENT OVER THE 1980 SUPPLY. FURTHER LARGE INCREASES ARE EXPECTED IN 1982 AND 1983, AT 383 000 SQUARE METRES AND 410 000 SQUARE METRES, RESPECTIVELY.

THE VACANCY POSITION HAS INCREASED TO 423 000 SQUARE METRES, AN INCREASE OF 27 PER CENT, DESPITE A LARGER TAKE-UP OF SPACE IN 1981.

MR FRY EXPLAINED THAT MUCH OF THE SPACE PROVIDED LAST YEAR, WAS IN ARCADED SHOPPING CENTRES WHERE OCCUPANCY HAS BEEN LOW BECAUSE OF POOR PLANNING AND INADEQUATE MANAGEMENT. WHILE PRIME SHOPPING SPACE WILL CONTINUE TO ATTRACT OCCUPIERS IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT VALUES GENERALLY FOR THIS CATEGORY WILL SOFTEN FURTHER IN 1982.

MUCH OF THE SUPPLY IN 1982 AND 1983 WILL ALSO BE IN ARCADED SHOPPING CENTRES, THE SUCCESS OF WHICH WILL DEPEND VERY MUCH ON LOCATION AND MANAGEMENT.

RENTS SHOWED SOME SOFTENING TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR AND TRADING IN SHOP UNITS WAS DULL.

OFFICES:

THE SUPPLY OF OFFICE SPACE AT 320 000 SQUARE METRES WAS SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTING, BEING SOME 100 000 SQUARE METRES BELOW THE FORECAST, ALTHOUGH IT WAS STILL AN INCREASE OVER 1980. MUCH OF THE SHORTFALL SEEMS LIKELY TO BE MADE UP THIS YEAR WITH AN EXPECTED SUPPLY OF 485 000 SQUARE METRES. SUPPLY IN 1983 IS PUT AT 576 000 SQUARE METRES WHILE A FURTHER 500 000 SQUARE METRES COULD BE BUILT IN 1984, THAT IS AN ADDITION OF SOME 1.5 MILLION SQUARE METRES IN THE THREE YEARS 1982-1984, AN INCREASE OF 57 PER CENT ON STOCK AT THE END OF 1981.

TAKE-UP IMPROVED IN 1981 AT JUST OVER 200 000 SQUARE METRES. NEVERTHELESS, IN THE FACE OF AN INCREASED SUPPLY THE VACANCY POSITION ALSO INCREASED TO 302 000 SQUARE METRES, THAT IS AN INCREASE OF NEARLY 49 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR.

WHILE RENTS CONTINUED TO INCREASE IN 1981, MR FRY POINTED TO THE LEVELLING-OUT OBSERVED IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR AND THE REPORTED DOWNTURN IN ASKING RENTS TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT VALUES WILL LIKELY SOFTEN FURTHER IN 1982 FOR POORER-QUALITY SPACE IN PERIPHERAL AREAS AND SUGGESTED THAT DEVELOPERS OF SOME OF THESE SMALLER BUILDINGS SHOULD, PERHAPS, RE-ASSESS THEIR VIABILITY IN THE FACE OF THE VERY LARGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN THIS CATEGORY. THE DEMAND FOR CENTRALLY-LOCATED, GOOD QUALITY SPACE IN WELL-MANAGED BUILDINGS SEEMED LIKELY TO BE SUSTAINED.

FLATTED FACTORIES:

THE SUPPLY OF 1 120 000 SQUARE METRES OF FLATTED FACTORY SPACE IN 1981 WAS FAIRLY CLOSE TO THE FORECAST. ANTICIPATED COMPLETIONS IN 1982 AT 970 000 SQUARE METRES REPRESENTS A SHORTFALL OF 780 000 SQUARE METRES ON THE PREVIOUS FORECAST WHICH SUGGESTS A REPHASING OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES. MUCH OF THIS SHORTFALL WILL, HOWEVER, BE MADE GOOD IN 1983 WHEN A SUPPLY OF OVER 1.76 MILLION SQUARE METRES IS EXPECTED, WITH A RECORD 2.2 MILLION SQUARE METRES PLANNED FOR COMPLETION IN 1984.

A CONTINUING GOOD SUPPLY, COUPLED WITH A LOWER TAKE-UP OF SPACE, HAS RESULTED IN AN INCREASED VACANCY POSITION. NEARLY 800 000 SQUARE METRES WAS VACANT IN DECEMBER 1981, A 67 PER CENT INCREASE ON THE POSITION A YEAR EARLIER.

THE COMMISSIONER NOTED THAT RENTS HAD CONTINUED UPWARDS OVER THE YEAR BUT THAT, AS WITH THE OTHER SECTORS, A SOFTENING WAS APPARENT AS THE YEAR CLOSED, PARTICULARLY IN THOSE DISTRICTS WHERE SUPPLY HAD TEMPORARILY OUTSTRIPPED EFFECTIVE DEMAND.

GIVEN THE REDUCED FORECAST FOR 1982 IT SEEMED UNLIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE THIS YEAR, BUT VALUES COULD SOFTEN FURTHER IN 1983. A MORE STABLE MARKET IN THE INDUSTRIAL CATEGORY COULD HELP TO CONTAIN COSTS IN WHAT IS A MOST IMPORTANT SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY.

/CONCLUSIONS:

CONCLUSIONS:

MR FRY CAUTIONED THAT THE GREATLY INCREASED SUPPLY POSTULATED BY THE YEAR'S FORECASTS MAY NOT BE ACHIEVED IF THERE IS ANY SLOWING DOWN OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON THE PART OF DEVELOPERS, INSTANCES OF WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN NOTED.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE SUPPLY AND VACANCY POSITIONS IN 1980 AND 1981 AND FORECAST FIGURES FOR 1982 AND 1983:

		1980	1981	FORECAST	
				1982	1983
<u>PRIVATE DOMESTIC</u>					
SUPPLY IN YEAR	UNITS	24 995	34 475	27 310	27 405
TOTAL AMOUNT VACANT AT DECEMBER OF YEAR	,,	*17 000	*29 700		
<u>COMMERCIAL PREMISES</u>					
SUPPLY IN YEAR	SQ. M.	272 300	314 500	382 800	410 600
TOTAL AMOUNT VACANT AT DECEMBER OF YEAR	,,	333 000	423 300		
<u>OFFICES</u>					
SUPPLY IN YEAR	SQ. M.	296 700	319 300	485 100	575 700
TOTAL AMOUNT VACANT AT DECEMBER OF YEAR	,,	202 900	301 900		
<u>FLATTED FACTORIES</u>					
SUPPLY IN YEAR	SQ. M.	976 700	1 121 500	968 300	1 765 600
TOTAL AMOUNT VACANT AT DECEMBER OF YEAR	,,	476 100	795 000		
<u>STORAGE</u>					
SUPPLY IN YEAR	SQ. M.	43 000	167 300	119 200	173 400
TOTAL AMOUNT VACANT AT DECEMBER OF YEAR	,,	24 800	44 800		

* BASED ON SAMPLE SURVEYS

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CONTRACT SIGNED FOR NT TRUNK ROAD SECTION
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THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AWARDED A \$202-MILLION CONTRACT TO KUMAGAI GUMI (HK) LTD. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SECTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES TRUNK ROAD FROM ISLAND HOUSE TO NORTH TAI PO.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER, MR HAROLD BEATON, SIGNED THE CONTRACT WITH MR C.P. YU AND MR T. NAKAYAMA OF KUMAGAI GUMI.

THE NEW ROAD IS PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES TRUNK ROAD SYSTEM WHICH, ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, WILL RUN FROM SHA TIN ALONG THE COAST OF TAI PO HOI (TOLO HARBOUR), CROSS THE RAILWAY LINE AT ISLAND HOUSE INTERCHANGE AND BY-PASS TAI PO TO THE NORTH.

THE SECTION FROM SHA TIN TO ISLAND HOUSE IS ALREADY UNDER CONSTRUCTION. TODAY'S CONTRACT INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAIN BY-PASS, WHICH WILL BE A DUAL THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY OF ABOUT THREE KILOMETRES IN LENGTH.

MR BEATON SAID: +THE ROUTE PASSES THROUGH VERY STEEP HILLY TERRAIN AND WILL REQUIRE THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR MAJOR VIADUCTS SPANNING ACROSS STEEP VALLEYS WITH PIERS UP TO 30 METRES IN HEIGHT.+

+ONE OF THE VIADUCTS WILL BE 230 METRES LONG AND THE LENGTH OF THE FOUR VIADUCTS TOTALS ABOUT 750 METRES.

+OTHER WORK INCLUDES A DUAL TWO-LANE LINK ROAD ABOUT 700 METRES LONG TO SERVE NORTH TAI PO, WITH ONE MAJOR BRIDGE SPANNING ACROSS THE RETAINED LAM TSUEN RIVER.+

THE WORK FORMS PART OF A PROGRAMME TO UPGRADE THE NEW TERRITORIES TRUNK ROAD SYSTEM. THE PROGRAMME IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN LATE 1984 AT A TOTAL COST OF ABOUT \$2 500 MILLION.

BEYOND THE JUNCTION WITH LAM KAM ROAD, THE TRUNK ROAD WILL FOLLOW THE LINE OF THE EXISTING TAI PO ROAD TO WO HOP SHEK. THE WO HOP SHEK INTERCHANGE, NOW BEING BUILT, WILL CONNECT TAI PO ROAD WITH FANLING BY-PASS.

BETWEEN FANLING AND AU TAU, THE TRUNK ROAD WILL CLOSELY FOLLOW THE EXISTING CASTLE PEAK ROAD. INTERCHANGES WILL BE PROVIDED AT MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AREAS.

THE NEW TERRITORIES TRUNK ROAD HAS BEEN DESIGNED AS A LIMITED ACCESS DUAL CARRIAGEWAY TO LINK THE NEW TOWNS NOW BEING DEVELOPED. IT WILL HAVE SERVICE ROADS AND CYCLE TRACKS WHERE THESE ARE NECESSARY.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY THE HIGHWAYS (NEW TERRITORIES) DIVISION AND THE STRUCTURAL DESIGN DIVISION OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE AND THE WORK WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE HIGHWAYS (NEW TERRITORIES) DIVISION.

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NEED FOR NURSERIES IN NEW TOWNS STRESSED

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THE TIMELY PROVISION OF SUCH ESSENTIAL FACILITIES AS SCHOOLS AND NURSERIES IS IMPORTANT IN HELPING PEOPLE TO SETTLE DOWN HAPPILY IN NEW TOWNS, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES, MR IAN MACPHERSON, STRESSED TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PO LEUNG KUK NURSERY AT YAU OI ESTATE WHICH IS THE KUK'S 17TH DAY CARE CENTRE.

MR MACPHERSON ALSO APPEALED TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO PROVIDE THIS MUCH-NEEDED SERVICES IN OTHER PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN TUEN MUN - BUTTERFLY, WU KING, SHAN KING AND SIU HONG COURT - WHICH ARE BEING COMPLETED WITHIN THIS AND THE COMING YEAR.

HE SAID +TO ENABLE RESIDENTS IN OUR FAST-EXPANDING NEW TOWNS TO SETTLE DOWN HAPPILY AS PART OF A CONTENTED AND HARMONIOUS COMMUNITY, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES, SUCH AS SCHOOLS, KINDERGARTENS AND NURSERIES, ARE PROVIDED IN GOOD TIME TO MATCH THE POPULATION COMPOSITION AND BUILD-UP.

+THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN THE CASE OF TUEN MUN WHERE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING IS BEING COMPLETED IN RECORD TIME AND THE POPULATION, INCREASING AT THE RATE OF 200 TO 300 PER DAY, IS PREDOMINANTLY YOUNG AND WITH HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE IN THEIR NEW HOMES.

+TO THIS END, THE DISTRICT BOARD, RECENTLY STRENGTHENED BY ELECTED UNOFFICIALS ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTED BY LOCAL VOTERS, TOGETHER WITH THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO PLAY A CRUCIAL AND EVER-INCREASING ROLE IN CO-ORDINATING THE TIMELY PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO MEET THE ASPIRATIONS AND NEEDS OF THE RESIDENTS OF THIS RAPIDLY EXPANDING TOWNSHIP.+

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

HANDING OVER OF MEDICAL LAUNCH

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE HANDING OVER CEREMONY ON FRIDAY (MARCH 19) OF THE MEDICAL LAUNCH +ROTARY+ DONATED TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WEST.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 4.45 PM AT QUEEN'S PIER.

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NT RESIDENTS PRAISED FOR COMMUNITY WORK

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THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING ATTENDED A BUFFET-STYLE SPRING DINNER PARTY GIVEN BY MEMBERS OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND PROPERTY OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS IN TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI.

ADDRESSING THE GATHERING OF MORE THAN 750 PEOPLE, HE PRAISED THE MEMBERS FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE RECENTLY-HELD DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

MR MACLEOD SAID THE DINNER PARTY HELD IN BUFFET-STYLE TO ENCOURAGE MINGLING AMONG THE PEOPLE - PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS FROM THE THREE AREAS TO MEET AND TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER.

TSUEN WAN HAD ALREADY WITNESSED THE EFFECT OF MAC'S AND OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS IN THE PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG THE LOCAL POPULATION, HE SAID.

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HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY ON SALE

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A NEW PUBLICATION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ENTITLED +REPORT OF THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY, 1979-80 AND THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SYSTEM+ IS ON SALE TODAY.

THIS PUBLICATION GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF THE METHODOLOGY, PLANNING AND CONDUCT OF THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY CARRIED OUT FROM OCTOBER 1979 TO SEPTEMBER 1980, AND PRESENTS THE SURVEY RESULTS.

IT ALSO DESCRIBES THE METHODS ADOPTED FOR THE COMPUTATION OF THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (A) AND (B) AND THE HANG SENG CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BASED ON ITS RESULTS.

THE NEW INDEXES HAVE BEEN RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC MONTHLY SINCE APRIL 1981.

THE REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE AT \$30 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG.

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NEW OFFICES FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL MOVE INTO ITS NEW HEADQUARTERS AT SUNNING PLAZA ON SATURDAY (MARCH 20).

THE DEPARTMENT WILL OCCUPY 10 FLOORS (COVERING 6 300 SQUARE METRES) OF THE 29-STOREY GLASS TOWER, SITUATED JUST ACROSS THE ROAD FROM THE PRESENT HEADQUARTERS AT LEE GARDENS, IN HYSAN AVENUE.

THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE, OTHER DEPARTMENTAL UNITS AND THE OFFICES OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COUNCILS NOW LOCATED AT CENTRE POINT BUILDING, WILL MOVE INTO THE NEW PREMISES IN THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

THE MOVE WAS FIRST PLANNED TWO YEARS AGO WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE NEEDS OF THE DEPARTMENT HAD OUT-GROWN ITS ACCOMMODATION AT LEE GARDENS BECAUSE OF STEADY EXPANSION OF ITS VARIOUS SERVICES.

USING THE +OPEN PLAN+ OFFICE SYSTEM, THE DEPARTMENT HAS INSTALLED A SOPHISTICATED PABX TELEPHONE SYSTEM, WHICH SHOULD BE A GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN COMMUNICATIONS.

THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS HAS BEEN IN THE CAUSEWAY BAY DISTRICT FOR OVER 26 YEARS, HAVING MOVED FROM THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK BUILDING IN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL IN 1956.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN LOCATED ON THE SAME ROAD -- HYSAN AVENUE -- SINCE ITS MOVE FROM CENTRAL.

THE FIRST MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN CAUSEWAY BAY WAS IN TOWER COURT. IN 1966, THE DEPARTMENT MOVED ACROSS THE ROAD TO LEE GARDENS.

THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES AT SUNNING PLAZA IS 5-7900790.

MOVING INTO THE NEW PREMISES ON SATURDAY WILL BE THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DIRECTORATE STAFF, GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, NURSING SECTION, STATISTICAL UNIT, SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING UNIT, MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING UNIT, PRIVATE DENTAL TREATMENT REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT, MANAGEMENT SERVICE UNIT, PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL (COMMISSIONING UNIT), RADIATION HEALTH UNIT, THE REGIONAL OFFICES SECTION, AND THE STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONS UNIT.

IN THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THE BRANCH OFFICES WILL BE MOVING IN. THEY COMPRISE THE BOARDS AND COUNCILS SECTION AND THE LICENTIATE OFFICE.

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TALKS ON THE TEACHING OF MORAL EDUCATION

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ONE HUNDRED SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS OF ETHICAL EDUCATION WILL BE ATTENDING A SEMINAR ON THE TEACHING OF MORAL EDUCATION TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY (MARCH 20).

+THE AIM OF THE SEMINAR IS TO ACQUAINT TEACHERS WITH SOME SUGGESTED APPROACHES TO MORAL EDUCATION AND THE USE OF RELATED AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE TEACHING OF MORAL AND ETHICAL EDUCATION WITH THE SPEAKERS AND WITH OTHER PARTICIPATING TEACHERS, HE SAID.

PLACES AT THE SEMINAR WERE OVER-SUBSCRIBED BY MORE THAN THREE TIMES, AND THE SPOKESMAN SAID TEACHERS WHO WERE NOT SELECTED TO ATTEND THIS SATURDAY'S SEMINAR WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO ATTEND SIMILAR SEMINARS TO BE HELD LATER.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE FROM 9 AM TO 12 NOON AT THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE TEACHING CENTRES, 4 PAK FUK ROAD, FIFTH FLOOR, ROOMS 29-30, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG.

AN INTRODUCTORY TALK WILL BE DELIVERED BY MRS LOUISE MOK, DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS.

SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE REV. P. BRADY, S.J. WHO WILL TALK ON AN APPROACH TO MORAL EDUCATION; MR LUKE YIP, PRINCIPAL OF ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE WHO WILL SPEAK ON MORAL EDUCATION THROUGH EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES; AND MR YUNG YUK-YU, SUPERVISOR OF THE DIOCESAN AUDIO-VISUAL CENTRE WILL TALK ABOUT AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS FOR MORAL EDUCATION.

PARTICIPANTS WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING THE TALKS.

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NEW OFFICES FOR NARCOTICS DIVISION

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THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT WILL BE MOVING ITS OFFICES ON FRIDAY (MARCH 19) FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO THE UNITED CENTRE, 31ST FLOOR, 95 QUEENSWAY.

THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE DIVISION WILL BE AS FOLLOWS :

GENERAL OFFICE -- 5-295248

PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY SECTION -- 5-295145;
5-295148; 5-295146; 5-295240.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN POK FU LAM ROAD

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THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY IN A SECTION OF POK FU LAM ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND A POINT 90 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH POKFIELD ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 19).

AT THE SAME TIME, THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY ALONG THE SAME ROAD SECTION WILL ALSO BE DESIGNATED AS AN URBAN CLEARWAY, FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

WITHIN THE CLEARWAYS, ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS DURING THE RESTRICTED PERIODS.

THE EXTENT OF THE URBAN CLEARWAYS WILL BE INDICATED BY TRAFFIC SIGNS.

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KCR SEEKS MORE STAFF

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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY IS RECRUITING SOME 240 MEN AND WOMEN RAILWAY OFFICERS III TO DEAL WITH THE INCREASED AMOUNT OF WORK ARISING FROM THE FIRST PHASE OF ELECTRIFICATION AND MODERNISATION OF THE RAILWAY IN MAY.

FORM FIVE GRADUATES AND ABOVE WHO ARE BEING SOUGHT BY THE RAILWAY WILL FIND THE WORK INTERESTING, A KCR SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

VACANCIES EXIST IN INDOOR AND OUTDOOR JOBS FOR PLATFORM INSPECTORS, BOOKING CLERKS, BARRIER ATTENDANTS FOR THE AUTOMATIC REVENUE COLLECTION SYSTEM, GOODS CLERKS, YARD MASTERS, TICKET COLLECTORS AND INSPECTORS, TRAIN GUARDS AND ANNOUNCERS.

SALARIES START AT \$1 755 OR \$2 130, DEPENDING ON EXPERIENCE, RISING TO A MAXIMUM OF \$4 240 A MONTH.

FREE MEDICAL AND DENTAL TREATMENT ARE PROVIDED AND, DEPENDING ON OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, QUARTERS MAY ALSO BE PROVIDED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF A RAILWAY OFFICER III ARE FIVE PASSES, INCLUDING ENGLISH (SYLLABUS B), CHINESE AND MATHEMATICS, IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION. GOOD EYESIGHT IS ALSO REQUIRED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CITY AND NT DISTRICT OFFICES, AND SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARY, KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, 12TH FLOOR, EMPIRE COURT, 68 MODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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