



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1980

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR OCTOBER 1980

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR OCTOBER WAS \$9 005 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AT \$6 106 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS AT \$2 899 MILLION. WITH IMPORTS AT \$9 572 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR THE MONTH WAS \$567 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, THE FOLLOWING INCREASES BY VALUE WERE RECORDED: \$784 MILLION, OR 15 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS- \$1 103 MILLION, OR 61 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS- \$1 887 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, AND \$1 273 MILLION OR 15 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS.

IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR, THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+, THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, WAS 5.9 PER CENT (\$567 MILLION)- IN OCTOBER 1979, THE +GAP+ WAS 14.2 PER CENT (\$1 181 MILLION).

COMPARING THE FIGURES FOR THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WITH THOSE FOR THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF LAST YEAR, DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAVE INCREASED IN VALUE BY 25 PER CENT, RE-EXPORTS BY 49 PER CENT, TOTAL EXPORTS BY 31 PER CENT AND IMPORTS BY 29 PER CENT.

THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ FOR THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WAS 10.5 PER CENT, NARROWER THAN THE 11.8 PER CENT FOR THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1979.

COMMENTING ON THE OCTOBER TRADE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THEY WERE ENCOURAGING IN FIVE RESPECTS: (FIRSTLY) EVEN AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF UNCERTAIN WORLD ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAS REMAINED IMPRESSIVE, ALBEIT LESS SO THAN IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR- (SECONDLY) THE ENTREPOT TRADE HAS CONTINUED TO EXPAND VERY RAPIDLY- SO (THIRDLY) THE GROWTH RATE OF TOTAL EXPORTS HAS REMAINED RAPID- IN ADDITION (FOURTHLY) THE GROWTH RATE OF TOTAL EXPORTS HAS REMAINED HIGHER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS- SO THAT (FIFTHLY) THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ HAS NARROWED.

THE FOLLOWING ARE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR HONG KONG'S MERCHANDISE TRADE IN OCTOBER 1980 AS PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY:

<u>MERCHANDISE:</u>	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	: \$6 106 MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	: \$2 899 MILLION
	TOTAL EXPORTS	: \$9 005 MILLION
	IMPORTS	: \$9 572 MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	: \$ 567 MILLION (IN DEFICIT)

/COMPARATIVE

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COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	<u>AUG - OCT</u> <u>1980</u>	<u>AUG - OCT</u> <u>1979</u>	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$M	\$M	\$M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	18 838	16 418	+ 2 419	+ 14.7
RE-EXPORTS	8 372	5 283	+ 3 089	+ 58.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	27 209	21 701	+ 5 508	+ 25.4
IMPORTS	28 370	23 256	+ 5 114	+ 22.0
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 161	- 1 555	+ 394	
<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	<u>OCT 1980</u>	<u>OCT 1979</u>	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$M	\$M	\$M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	6 106 (67.8%)	5 322 (74.8%)	+ 784	+ 14.7
RE-EXPORTS	2 899	1 796	+ 1 103	+ 61.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	9 005	7 118	+ 1 887	+ 26.5
IMPORTS	9 572	8 299	+ 1 273	+ 15.3
TRADE BALANCE	- 567	-1 181	+ 614	
<u>LAST MONTH</u>	<u>OCT 1980</u>	<u>SEPT 1980</u>	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$M	\$M	\$M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	6 106 (67.8%)	5 980 (68.3%)	+ 126	+ 2.1
RE-EXPORTS	2 899	2 782	+ 118	+ 4.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	9 005	8 762	+ 243	+ 2.8
IMPORTS	9 572	9 388	+ 184	+ 2.0
TRADE BALANCE	- 567	- 626	+ 59	

/CALENDAR YEAR

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CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN - OCT 1980	JAN - OCT 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$M	\$M	\$M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	56 039 (70.0%)	44 995 (73.6%)	+11 044	+ 24.5
RE-EXPORTS	24 028	16 132	+ 7 896	+ 48.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	80 067	61 127	+18 940	+ 31.0
IMPORTS	89 500	69 309	+20 191	+ 29.1
TRADE BALANCE	- 9 433	- 8 182	- 1 251	
	NOV 1979 TO	NOV 1978 TO	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
LAST 12 MONTHS	OCT 1980	OCT 1979	\$M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	66 956	53 124	+13 832	+ 26.0
RE-EXPORTS	27 918	18 757	+ 9 162	+ 48.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	94 874	71 880	+22 994	+ 32.0
IMPORTS	106 028	82 624	+23 404	+ 28.3
TRADE BALANCE	- 11 154	- 10 744	- 410	

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SNT CALLS FOR MORE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY
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VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND WELFARE GROUPS WERE TODAY URGED TO INCREASE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY.

MAKING THE APPEAL WAS SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WHEN OPENING THE KUN CHUNG TEMPLE AT FANLING.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID IN HONG KONG THE SPAN OF LIFE WAS INCREASING, SOCIAL CUSTOMS WERE CHANGING AND THERE WAS A GREAT NEED TO BUILD CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR THE OLD.

AT PRESENT THE BUDDHIST PO CHING HOME WAS THE ONLY SUCH INSTITUTION IN THE NORTHERN NEW TERRITORIES, ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXPECTED THAT OTHERS WOULD BE BUILT AS THE AREA DEVELOPED OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

+THIS SPLENDID TEMPLE IS A WORTHLY ADDITION TO THIS FAMOUS INSTITUTION AND WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR RELIGIOUS DEVOTION FOR THE MANY ELDERLY PEOPLE LIVING HERE,+ HE SAID.

/MR AKERS-JONES

MR AKERS-JONES SAID HE SOMETIMES THOUGHT THAT IN HONG KONG WE TENDED TO EMPHASISE THE NEEDS OF THE YOUNG AND THAT AS A RESULT WE SOMETIMES LOST SIGHT OF THE NEED FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY AND THERE WAS LITTLE ORGANISED ON A REGULAR BASIS.

+I THEREFORE HOPE THAT MORE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND OTHER GROUPS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE WILL INCREASE THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND EVENTS FOR OUR ELDERLY,+ HE APPEALED.

KUN CHUNG TEMPLE IS A TWO-STOREY BUILDING ON A 2 000-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT MAY VILLA BUNGALOW, FANLING. ADJACENT TO IT IS THE BUDDHIST PO CHING HOME FOR AGED WOMEN.

THE TEMPLE WAS FORMERLY THE PO CHING MEMORIAL HALL.

THE PRESENT ABBOT, REV KOK KWONG, SAW THE NEED FOR A SITE FOR REST AND PASTIME ACTIVITIES FOR THE ELDERLY PEOPLE LIVING NEXT DOOR AND INITIATED BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE. THE PROJECT HAS BEEN COMPLETED WITH DONATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BUDDHIST COMMUNITY.

THE UPPER STOREY OF THE TEMPLE IS USED FOR WORSHIP WHILE THE GROUND FLOOR IS USED AS A MEMORIAL HALL AND AN OLD PEOPLE'S RECREATION CENTRE.

AN ENLIGHTENMENT CEREMONY WAS HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OPENING. OFFICIATING WERE THE PRESIDENT OF THE BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION OF CHINA, REV PAI SHENG= THE PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG BUDDHIST SANGHA ASSOCIATION, REV SAI CHUN= AND THE ABBOT OF PO-LUM MONASTERY, LANTAU, REV SING YI.

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SPORT LOVERS TAUGHT HOW TO PLAY SAFE

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WE CAN ENJOY OURSELVES AND BE SAFE AT THE SAME TIME IF WE USE OUR COMMONSENSE AND OBSERVE SIMPLE SAFETY RULES WHEN TAKING PART IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, MR ALAN SCOTT, SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION, SAID TODAY.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE LAND SPORTS PLAY SAFE DAY AT MORSE PARK, MR SCOTT REFERRED TO THE HIGH ACCIDENT RATE IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

HE SAID: +WITH MORE AND MORE PEOPLE TAKING PART IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS OF ALL KINDS BECAUSE OF INCREASED LEISURE TIME, ACCIDENT RATES HAVE BECOME TOO HIGH IN CERTAIN SPORTS.

+WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT IN ANY OUTDOOR ACTIVITY THERE ARE POSSIBLE RISKS OR DANGERS, BUT THESE CAN BE GUARDED AGAINST BY SIMPLE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS= AND THIS APPLIES TO CYCLING QUIETLY ALONG, JUST AS MUCH AS TO MOUNTAIN CLIMBING.+

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WERE MR CHAM SIU-LEUN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS= MR HOWARD YOUNG, URBAN COUNCILLOR AND MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS= MR NORMAN OBI, SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT AND MR DICKEN YUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE LAND SPORTS PLAY SAFE DAY WORKING PARTY.

THE LAND SPORTS PLAY SAFE DAY, A THREE-HOUR EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME, WAS CO-ORDINATED BY THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT AND SPONSORED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL. IT FORMS PART OF THE PUBLICITY PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE THE PLAY SAFE MESSAGE.

SPECTATORS WERE INVITED TO WATCH A SERIES OF SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS IN A VARIETY OF OUTDOOR SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES. THESE INCLUDED CYCLING, MOTORCYCLING, CAMPING, ARCHERY, HILL-WALKING AND ROLLER-SKATING.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY WERE AN EXCITING PROGRAMME OF ACROBATIC CYCLING AND A DEMONSTRATION OF TRICK MOTORCYCLING.

SPECTATORS ALSO ENJOYED A PUPPET SHOW PRESENTED BY A MOBILE STREET THEATRE ON SAFETY IN LAND SPORTS.

TO HELP BRING HOME THE SAFETY MESSAGE, THERE WERE ALSO DISPLAYS ON SAFETY RULES AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT OF VARIOUS TYPES OF SPORTS.

A ROAD SAFETY BUS WAS ALSO ON SHOW, WITH OFFICERS OF THE ROAD SAFETY SECTION OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE ON HAND TO EXPLAIN TO VISITORS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ROAD SAFETY.

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GOVERNMENT TAKES FULL ACCOUNT OF LOCAL ADVICE

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THE GOVERNMENT TAKES FULL ACCOUNT OF ADVICE GIVEN BY THE PEOPLE OF KWAI CHUNG IN MANAGING THE TOWN, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FRED TING, SAID TODAY.

MR TING WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE FIRST KWAI CHUNG FESTIVAL AT THE OSMAN RAMJU SADICK MEMORIAL INDOOR GAMES HALL.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF KWAI CHUNG DOES NOT HAVE A VERY LONG HISTORY, HE SAID.

WITHIN A PERIOD OF ONLY 20 YEARS KWAI CHUNG HAD CHANGED FROM A REMOTE RURAL AREA INTO A MAJOR INDUSTRIAL TOWN.

THE SPEED OF DEVELOPMENT HAD BEEN QUICKER THAN IN ANY OTHER DISTRICT, HE SAID.

NOW, KWAI CHUNG HAS A POPULATION OF MORE THAN 500 000, AND AN INDUSTRIAL POPULATION OF 100 000. TO PROVIDE THEM WITH SUFFICIENT SCHOOL PLACES AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES, AS WELL AS DAILY FACILITIES SUCH AS TRANSPORT AND ENTERTAINMENT, COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING WAS REQUIRED.

+AS KWAI CHUNG IS STILL UNDER DEVELOPMENT, THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE SOCIAL SITUATION ARE UNDERGOING CONSTANT CHANGE,+ MR TING SAID.

+THIS MAKES TOWN MANAGEMENT WORK MORE COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT,+ HE ADDED.

TO HELP SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS, LOCAL OPINION AND SUPPORT ARE VERY IMPORTANT, BESIDES CO-OPERATION AMONG THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, HE SAID.

+BECAUSE LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THE EXPERIENCE AND ARE KEENLY CONCERNED ABOUT LOCAL AFFAIRS, FULL ACCOUNT OF THEIR VIEWS IS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT,+ MR TING SAID.

KWAI CHUNG NOW HAS SEVEN SUBDISTRICT COMMITTEES, COMPRISING 96 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

+ALL THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, QUITE NATURALLY, POSSESS A VERY WIDE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR DISTRICT AND FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS HAVE BEEN GIVING CONSTRUCTIVE ADVICE ON RECREATIONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND TRANSPORT PROJECTS,+ HE SAID.

BESIDES ADVISING ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS LOCAL SUB-DISTRICT COMMITTEES HAVE ALSO ORGANISED ESTATE DAYS, OUT OF WHICH THE PRESENT KWAI CHUNG FESTIVAL HAS GROWN.

MR TING THANKED THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE FESTIVAL, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE COLOURFUL PROGRAMMES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE.

THE FESTIVAL, WHICH WILL BE HELD IN SIX DISTRICTS IN KWAI CHUNG, LASTS TWO WEEKS.

MORE THAN 30 ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD, INCLUDING FUN FAIRS, VARIETY SHOWS, MARTIAL ARTS DISPLAYS, LONG-DISTANCE RUNNING EVENTS AND CANTONESE OPERA PERFORMANCES.

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HAS PROVIDED \$60 000 TOWARDS FESTIVAL COSTS AND ANOTHER \$70 000 IS BEING DONATED BY LOCAL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.

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MANPOWER SURVEY OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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THE BANKING TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL WILL BEGIN A MANPOWER SURVEY ON BANKS AND SELECTED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THE ESTABLISHMENTS ARE REQUESTED TO SUPPLY INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, TRAINING NEEDS AND OTHER PERSONNEL AND TRAINING MATTERS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, DR FRANCIS TIEN, SAID TODAY THAT THE INFORMATION COLLECTED IN THE SURVEY WOULD BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

QUESTIONNAIRES, EXPLANATORY NOTES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BANK AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY JOBS WERE SENT TO ALL BANKS AND SELECTED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES IN HONG KONG A FORTNIGHT AGO.

OFFICERS OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL WILL, IF NECESSARY, VISIT THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO ASSIST IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

THE SURVEY WILL END ON DECEMBER 20 (SATURDAY).

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FORTY SOCIAL SECURITY APPEALS LODGED IN 1979-80

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THE INDEPENDENT SOCIAL SECURITY APPEAL BOARD RECEIVED 40 APPEALS IN 1979-80 AGAINST DECISIONS MADE BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS.

IN THE SAME PERIOD, THE BOARD CONDUCTED HEARINGS FOR 33 APPEALS, MOST OF WHICH INVOLVED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

IT GAVE SUBSTITUTES FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISIONS IN 18 CASES AND CONFIRMED ITS DECISIONS IN THE OTHER 15.

THE APPEAL BOARD WAS SET UP IN 1978 TO PROVIDE A SPEEDY MEANS OF REDRESS FOR PEOPLE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISIONS ON APPLICATION OR PAYMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.

THE BOARD, WITH SECRETARIAT SUPPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT, IS MADE UP OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

IN HER SECOND ANNUAL REPORT RECENTLY PUBLISHED, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MRS MAXINE KWOK, SAID 26 OF THE APPEALS RECEIVED INVOLVED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, NINE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES AND FIVE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE.

SHE SAID THAT BEFORE HEARING THE APPEALS, THE BOARD VISITED MOST OF THE APPELLANTS AT HOME, PARTICULARLY WHERE THE APPEALS CONCERNED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

THIS IS TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND INFORMATION AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE APPELLANTS' BACKGROUND, LIVING CONDITIONS AND DIFFICULTIES BEFORE DECISIONS ARE TAKEN ON INDIVIDUAL MERITS, SHE EXPLAINED.

OF THE 33 HEARINGS, SHE SAID, 18 WERE HELD AT THE APPELLANTS' HOME, ONE AT THE HOSPITAL WHERE THE APPELLANT STAYED, AND 14 AT THE OFFICE OF THE BOARD.

MRS KWOK SAID THE BOARD ALSO MADE OBSERVATIONS AND MONITORED THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPEAL CASES, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN WHICH IT HAD GIVEN SUBSTITUTES FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISIONS.

SHE SAID THE BOARD WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD RESPONDED FAVOURABLY TO MOST OF ITS OBSERVATIONS AND HAD LAID DOWN NEW RULINGS TO IMPROVE THE OPERATION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES.

SOCIAL SECURITY APPEALS SHOULD BE LODGED WITHIN FOUR WEEKS OF NOTIFICATION OF A DECISION BY THE DEPARTMENT, AND WOULD BE HEARD NORMALLY WITHIN 21 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THEIR BEING RECEIVED.

HEARINGS ARE CONDUCTED IN A LANGUAGE CONVENIENT TO THE APPELLANT, AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION IS NOT NECESSARY.

SIMPLE APPEAL FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE APPEAL BOARD'S OFFICE IN INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, 18TH FLOOR, DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL (TEL. NO. 5-445585), OR AT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND ITS SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS AND TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SECTION.

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63 BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN OCTOBER

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT APPROVED 63 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN OCTOBER, COMPARED WITH 54 IN THE SAME MONTHS LAST YEAR.

OF THESE NEW PLANS, 20 WERE FOR BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, NINE FOR KOWLOON AND 34 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDED A HOSPITAL AT MOUNT KELLETT ROAD, A SCHOOL EXTENSION AT KUNG LOK ROAD, A HOSPITAL EXTENSION IN TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN, AN ELECTRICITY SUB-STATION IN SHEUNG SHUI AND A TELEPHONE EXCHANGE EXTENSION IN SHEK WU HUI.

THE DECLARED COST OF ALL NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS \$1 029 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$351 MILLION IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THEIR TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA AMOUNTED TO 405 403.6 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 120 261.9 SQUARE METRES OF DOMESTIC AND 285 141.7 SQUARE METRES OF NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 39 PROJECTS, INCLUDING A PETROL-FILLING STATION AT FUNG YIP STREET, AND TWO ELECTRICITY SUB-STATIONS IN KWUN TONG AND TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN.

ALTOGETHER, 60 NEWLY COMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION IN OCTOBER, INCLUDING A CHURCH AND SCHOOL IN YUEN LONG, AN ELECTRICITY SUB-STATION IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, A PETROL-FILLING STATION AT SING WOO ROAD AND A SCHOOL AT WAH FU ROAD.

THE OFFICE ALSO AGREED TO THE DEMOLITION OF 98 BUILDINGS.

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SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE FOR FORMER POW'S

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THE HONG KONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED THE INTRODUCTION OF A SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE OF \$400 PER MONTH FOR ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE FUND WITH EFFECT FROM TOMORROW (DECEMBER 1).

THE FUND WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1947 BY THE HONG KONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND ORDINANCE AND IS ADMINISTERED BY THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

ITS MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAINTENANCE, EDUCATION, BENEFIT OR ADVANCEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE FORCES AND ORGANISATIONS LISTED IN THE ORDINANCE WHO SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF THE PACIFIC WAR, AND THEIR DEPENDANTS.

THE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE IS PAYABLE TO ANY OFFICER OR MEMBER OF A UNIT LISTED IN THE ORDINANCE WHO SERVED THEREIN BETWEEN DECEMBER 7 AND 25, 1941, AND WHO WAS EITHER WOUNDED IN ACTION OR INJURED DURING SUCH SERVICE, OR CAPTURED AND HELD IN CAPTIVITY BY THE ENEMY.

/IT IS

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IT IS ALSO PAYABLE TO ANY PERSON WHO WAS SUBJECTED TO TORTURE BY THE ENEMY DURING THEIR OCCUPATION OF HONG KONG.

PAYMENT IS MADE PROVIDED THAT IN EVERY CASE THE PERSON CONCERNED IS TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY EITHER WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY INCAPACITATED FROM EARNING HIS LIVING, OR BEING AGED 60 OR OVER IS NOT IN EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS.

FOR BENEFICIARIES ALREADY RECEIVING A MAINTENANCE GRANT, THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE FOR ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES WILL RESULT IN AN OVERALL INCREASE IN BENEFITS BY 33.3 PER CENT FOR A SINGLE ADULT AND 19 PER CENT FOR A MARRIED COUPLE.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 130 BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE FUND. THE CURRENT RATES OF MAINTENANCE GRANTS ARE \$1 200 FOR A SINGLE ADULT, \$2 100 FOR A COUPLE, \$720 FOR EACH OF THE FIRST TWO DEPENDENT CHILDREN AND \$540 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT CHILD.

IN AUGUST LAST YEAR, THE CRITERIA FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE FUND WAS RELAXED SO THAT BENEFICIARIES NO LONGER HAD TO PROVE THAT THEIR INCAPACITY TO EARN A LIVING WAS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO INJURIES OR HARDSHIP SUFFERED IN CAPTIVITY.

FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED SINCE JULY 1977 AT GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND GENERAL CLINICS TO BENEFICIARIES.

THE LIST OF FORCES AND ORGANISATIONS, WHOSE MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS UNDER THE FUND, COVERS THE HONG KONG NAVAL VOLUNTEER FORCE= HONG KONG ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE= HONG KONG VOLUNTEER DEFENCE CORPS AND AUXILIARY AND AFFILIATED UNITS THEREOF= HONG KONG CORPS OF AIR RAID WARDENS= HONG KONG POLICE RESERVE= HONG KONG CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS (SPECIFICALLY AUXILIARY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE, AUXILIARY CONSERVANCY CORPS, AUXILIARY FIRE SERVICES, AUXILIARY LABOUR CORPS, AUXILIARY MEDICAL CORPS, AUXILIARY NURSING SERVICE, AUXILIARY ORDNANCE CORPS, AUXILIARY QUARTERING CORPS, AUXILIARY SUPPLY CORPS, AUXILIARY TRANSPORT SERVICE, CIVIL PAY AND ACCOUNTS SERVICE, PUBLIC WORKS CORPS AND AUXILIARY RESCUE AND DEMOLITION CORPS)= HIS MAJESTY'S REGULAR ARMED FORCES, ROYAL NAVAL YARD POLICE, AND THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE.

HUNG SHUI KIU RIVER GETS FACELIFT

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THE POLLUTED HUNG SHUI KIU RIVER AND ITS CATCHMENT AREA IN YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN DISTRICTS WAS GIVEN A FACELIFT AFTER AN EXTENSIVE CLEAN-UP RECENTLY.

TO BRING NEW LIFE TO IT, THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT DEPLOYED SOME 50 WORKERS TO CARRY OUT A TWO MONTH CLEARANCE JOB ON THE 4.7-KILOMETRE RIVER.

MORE THAN 300 LORRY-LOADS OF REFUSE, JUNK AND SOLID WASTE WERE REMOVED FROM THE RIVER DURING THE EXERCISE, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

A LARGE QUANTITY OF VEGETATION AND PLANTS THAT WOULD ROT AND COVER THE RIVER WITH A THICK CRUST AND BLOCK THE WATER-FLOW WAS ALSO COMPLETELY TRIMMED AND REMOVED.

WITH A FREE COLLECTION SERVICE FOR POULTRY AND PIG WASTES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CLEAN-UP, MOST OF THE FARM WASTES ARE NOW FINDING THEIR WAY INTO PLASTIC CONTAINERS LOCATED AT VARIOUS BIN SITES AND COLLECTION POINTS, SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

A DAILY COLLECTION OF ABOUT 20 TONNES OF FARM WASTE HAS BEEN RECORDED DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS, HE SAID.

HE SAID NON-STOP EFFORT WOULD BE TAKEN TO PREVENT ANY RECURRENCE OF POLLUTION OF THE RIVER.

+BUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WORK DEPENDS LARGELY ON FULL COOPERATION BY FARMERS AND VILLAGERS,+ HE STRESSED.

HE URGED THE OWNERS OF 350 FARMS LOCATED ALONGSIDE 32 SECTIONS OF THE RIVER TO PLAY THEIR PART IN KEEPING THE RIVER CLEAN.

+DUMPING FARM WASTE AND REFUSE INDISCRIMINATELY INTO THE RIVER WOULD ONLY RESULT IN OBNOXIOUS SMELLS, FLIES, POOR SANITATION AND HEALTH HAZARDS,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

WATER CUT IN TSZ WAN SHAN

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WATER SUPPLY TO AN AREA OF TSZ WAN SHAN WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 9 AM ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 2).

THE AREA COVERS ALL PREMISES AT YUK WAH CRESCENT AND IS BOUNDED BY YUK WAH STREET, PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD, PO FONG LANE AND PO MING LANE.
