



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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OCTOBER EXPORTS SHOW BIG RISE
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DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AT \$10 478 MILLION IN OCTOBER WERE 48 PER CENT OR \$3 391 MILLION HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME MONTH A YEAR AGO, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

RE-EXPORTS, AT \$5 715 MILLION, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 58 PER CENT OR \$2 100 MILLION OVER THIS PERIOD. THUS, TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE BY 51 PER CENT, OR \$5 491 MILLION, TO REACH \$16 193 MILLION IN OCTOBER.

WITH IMPORTS AT \$17 618 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 44 PER CENT OR \$5 400 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR OCTOBER THIS YEAR WAS \$1 425 MILLION.

THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP, THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS, NARROWED SIGNIFICANTLY TO 8 PER CENT, FROM 12 PER CENT IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT, PUTTING LAST MONTH'S TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1983 WAS 23 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

BOTH DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS, WHICH MAKE UP TOTAL EXPORTS, INCREASED BY 23 PER CENT. AS THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS LOWER, AT 20 PER CENT, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP IN THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, AT 9 PER CENT, WAS NARROWER THAN THAT IN THE SIMILAR PERIOD OF 1982, AT 11 PER CENT.

COMMENTING ON THESE IMPRESSIVE FIGURES ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS, RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FOR OCTOBER, THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST MONTH THAT DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAD EVER EXCEEDED \$10 000 MILLION.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THEIR INCREASES IN REAL TERMS (AFTER ALLOWING FOR THE EFFECTS OF PRICE INCREASES) SHOULD REMAIN VERY SUBSTANTIAL, AND INDICATED A CONTINUATION OF THE EXPORT-LED ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR OCTOBER 1983 :-

MERCHANDISE :	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$10 478 MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	:	\$ 5 715 MILLION
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$16 193 MILLION
	IMPORTS	:	\$17 618 MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	:	\$ 1 425 MILLION (IN DEFICIT)

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	AUG.-OCT. 1983	AUG.-OCT. 1982	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	30 100	21 996	+ 8 104	+36.8
RE-EXPORTS	15 638	10 927	+ 4 711	+43.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	45 738	32 923	+12 815	+38.9
IMPORTS	48 230	35 585	+12 645	+35.5
TRADE BALANCE	- 2 492	- 2 662	+ 170	
<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	OCTOBER 1983	OCTOBER 1982	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	10 478 (64.7%)	7 087 (66.2%)	+ 3 391	+47.8
RE-EXPORTS	5 715	3 615	+ 2 100	+58.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	16 193	10 702	+ 5 491	+51.3
IMPORTS	17 618	12 218	+ 5 400	+44.2
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 425	- 1 516	+ 91	
<u>LAST MONTH</u>	OCTOBER 1983	SEPTEMBER 1983	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	10 478 (64.7%)	9 665 (65.6%)	+ 813	+ 8.4
RE-EXPORTS	5 715	5 068	+ 647	+12.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	16 193	14 733	+ 1 460	+ 9.9
IMPORTS	17 618	15 494	+ 2 124	+13.7
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 425	- 761	- 664	

/CALENDAR YEAR

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<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE</u>	<u>JAN.-OCT. 1983</u>	<u>JAN.-OCT. 1982</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	83 114 (65.2%)	67 493 (65.3%)	+15 621	+23.1
RE-EXPORTS	44 330	35 917	+ 8 413	+23.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	127 444	103 410	+24 034	+23.2
IMPORTS	139 488	116 649	+22 839	+19.6
TRADE BALANCE	-12 044	-13 239	+ 1 195	
<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	<u>NOV. 1982 TO OCT. 1983</u>	<u>NOV. 1981 TO OCT. 1982</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	98 653	82 300	+16 353	+19.9
RE-EXPORTS	52 766	43 755	+ 9 011	+20.6
TOTAL EXPORTS	151 419	126 055	+25 364	+20.1
IMPORTS	165 732	142 112	+23 620	+16.6
TRADE BALANCE	-14 313	-16 057	+ 1 744	

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EXPORT-LED RECOVERY CONTINUES INTO THIRD QUARTER
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY PUBLISHED THE THIRD QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1983.

THE REPORT UPDATES THE ANALYSIS IN THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT PUBLISHED IN AUGUST, AND REVIEWS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE EXPORT SECTOR HAS CLEARLY REBOUNDED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.

THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ACCELERATED TO ABOUT 19 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER, FROM 14 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND 3 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

/SUCH IMPRESSIVE

SUCH IMPRESSIVE GROWTH RATES WERE LARGELY DUE TO THE RECOVERY IN THE US ECONOMY AND THE IMPROVEMENT IN ECONOMIC PERFORMANCES OF A NUMBER OF OTHER MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS.

THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR HAS ALSO ENHANCED HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL COMPETITIVENESS.

DOMESTIC DEMAND, HOWEVER, REMAINED RELATIVELY WEAK IN THE THIRD QUARTER. WHILE THE STATISTICS ON RETAINED IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS SUGGEST THAT CONSUMER DEMAND REVIVED SOMEWHAT, RETAINED IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS CONTINUED TO FALL.

REFLECTING THE SIGNIFICANT RECOVERY OF THE EXPORT SECTOR, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION FOR THE LABOUR FORCE AS A WHOLE IMPROVED.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FELL TO 3.8 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1983, FROM 4.4 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND 5.1 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE ALSO FELL TO 1.6 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER, COMPARED WITH 1.9 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND 2.5 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

THERE ARE SIGNS THAT, DURING THE THIRD QUARTER, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION STABILISED.

THE RATE OF INFLATION REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE AT ABOUT 9 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1983.

AS INDICATED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A), THE YEAR-ON-YEAR RATE OF INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES AVERAGED ABOUT 9.1 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER, COMPARED WITH 9.4 PER CENT FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR.

FURTHER, THE REPORT COMMENTS THAT WHILE THE SHARP DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF THIS YEAR MAY PUSH UP THE RATE OF INFLATION IN EARLY 1984 WHEN THE INCREASE IN IMPORT PRICES GRADUALLY WORKS THROUGH TO THE RETAIL LEVEL, THE CURRENCY STABILISATION MEASURES INTRODUCED IN OCTOBER ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE A DAMPENING EFFECT ON THE RATE OF INFLATION IN DUE COURSE.

APART FROM GIVING AN OVERALL VIEW, THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE LABOUR SECTOR, ACTIVITY IN SELECTED SECTORS AND PRICES.

ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED TO ABOUT 19 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

GIVEN THAT THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED RAPIDLY IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF THIS YEAR AND THAT THE VOLUME OF ORDERS HELD BY A SELECTION OF LARGE MANUFACTURERS CONTINUED TO BE ENCOURAGING, THE REPORT SAYS THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT DOMESTIC EXPORTS WILL REMAIN STRONG IN THE FOURTH QUARTER.

IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ALSO INCREASED RAPIDLY IN THE THIRD QUARTER: IMPORTS SHOWED A YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF ABOUT 12 PER CENT, WHILE RE-EXPORTS SHOWED A YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF ABOUT 21 PER CENT.

THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT SINCE THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS), AT 32 PER CENT, WAS FASTER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, AT 28 PER CENT, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP NARROWED TO 4 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF THIS YEAR FROM 6 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1982.

ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF THIS YEAR:

FIRST, NERVOUSNESS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, ALONG WITH THE RENEWED STRENGTH OF THE US DOLLAR, CONTINUED TO DEPRESS THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR DURING THE THIRD QUARTER.

THIS WEAKNESS, PARTICULARLY IN THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER, WAS UNJUSTIFIED IN TERMS OF THE CURRENT STRENGTH OF THE ECONOMY.

HOWEVER, THE PERSISTENT AND ACCELERATING DEPRECIATION THAT IT CAUSED FORCED THE GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE HONG KONG'S EXCHANGE RATE DETERMINATION SYSTEM IN OCTOBER TO ONE WHICH LINKED THE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR TO THAT OF THE US DOLLAR.

SECOND, BANK DEPOSIT RATES WERE ALTERED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS DURING THE THIRD QUARTER IN THE LIGHT OF EXCHANGE RATE DEVELOPMENTS.

THIRD, ON SEPTEMBER 27, TO AVOID AN UNSTABLE SITUATION DEVELOPING IN THE BANKING SECTOR, THE GOVERNMENT PASSED URGENT LEGISLATION TO TAKE OVER THE HANG LUNG BANK WHICH, AFTER A YEAR OF MOUNTING PROBLEMS, FOUND ITSELF UNABLE TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS WITHOUT GOVERNMENT SUPPORT.

FOURTH, THE MONEY SUPPLY FIGURES CONTINUED TO BE DISTORTED BY THE EXISTENCE OF SWAP DEPOSITS AND BY THE VALUATION EFFECT OF THE WEAKER HONG KONG DOLLAR, THUS MAKING INTERPRETATION DIFFICULT.

NEVERTHELESS, THE FIGURES SUGGEST THAT THE UNDERLYING GROWTH RATE OF TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY DURING THE THIRD QUARTER WAS MODERATE.

DURING THIS PERIOD, TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCREASED SLIGHTLY.

ON THE LABOUR SECTOR, THE REPORT SAYS THAT BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FELL FURTHER IN THE THIRD QUARTER, FROM THE PEAKS RECORDED EARLIER THIS YEAR.

WHEN JUNE 1983 IS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1982, EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR SHOWED NO CHANGE WHILE EMPLOYMENT IN THE TERTIARY SERVICES SECTORS INCREASED MODERATELY- BUT EMPLOYMENT ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES CONTINUED TO SHOW A DECLINE.

NEVERTHELESS, EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED DURING THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

THE REPORT FURTHER NOTES THAT IN THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JUNE 1983, EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, IN TERMS OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED, INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN REAL TERMS, WHILE THOSE IN THE TERTIARY SERVICES SECTORS REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE.

CONSTRUCTION WAGE RATES, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO DECLINE IN REAL TERMS, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A SMALL INCREASE IN MONEY TERMS.

THE REPORT OBSERVES THAT ON THE BASIS OF THE FIGURES ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS, RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES AND THE ENCOURAGING QUANTITY OF ELECTRICITY CONSUMED BY THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF A CONTINUED RECOVERY IN MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

ON THE PROPERTY SECTOR, THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT THE VACANCY POSITION FOR MOST TYPES OF PROPERTY WAS HIGH IN RELATION TO THE EXISTING STOCK.

WHILE TOTAL COMPLETIONS IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WERE MORE THAN IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR, DEMAND FOR PROPERTY REMAINED WEAK, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SMALL DOMESTIC UNITS.

PRICES AND RENTALS OF LARGE DOMESTIC UNITS IN GENERAL EASED FURTHER.

REFLECTING THE WEAK BUILDING INTENTIONS OF DEVELOPERS, THE TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA ON BUILDING PLANS WITH CONSENT TO COMMENCE WORK WAS SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1983 THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

ON PRICES, THE REPORT COMMENTS THAT DESPITE THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR SINCE THE END OF 1982, THE RATE OF INFLATION REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE AT ABOUT 9 PER CENT.

THE REPORT ATTRIBUTES THIS TO SEVERAL FAVOURABLE FACTORS.

LOCALLY, AGGREGATE DEMAND WAS NOT IMPOSING EXCESSIVE PRESSURE ON AGGREGATE SUPPLY OF DOMESTIC RESOURCES AND THE UNDERLYING GROWTH RATE OF THE MONEY SUPPLY WAS MODERATE.

EXTERNALLY, THE RATE OF INFLATION IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS HAS SLOWED DOWN.

THE THIRD QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1983 IS NOW ON SALE AT \$10 A COPY.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1983

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SIR PERCY HERE FOR THREE-DAY VISIT
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THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO PEKING, SIR PERCY CRADOCK, ARRIVED IN HONG KONG THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING FOR A THREE-DAY VISIT.

+IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO COME TO HONG KONG,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT.

+YOU KNOW OF COURSE WHY I AM HERE THIS TIME. I AM SHORTLY LEAVING PEKING AND GOING BACK HOME TO TAKE UP SOME APPOINTMENTS THERE, AND NATURALLY I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THAT BEFORE I HAVE COME DOWN HERE AND HAD A WORD WITH THE GOVERNOR AND OTHER OLD FRIENDS.

+SO I SHALL BE HERE UNTIL SUNDAY,+ HE SAID.

SIR PERCY WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE.

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CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN
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THE PRIMARY OBJECT OF SOCIAL WORK WITH CHILDREN IS TO PROMOTE THEIR WELL-BEING, WITHIN THE NATURAL FAMILY OR WITHIN THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG SOUTH TODAY (THURSDAY).

+WHERE THIS GOAL CANNOT BE ATTAINED THEN WE TRY TO ENSURE THAT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL DAMAGE TO THE CHILD WHO COMES INTO CARE IS KEPT TO A MINIMUM.

+THIS REQUIRES CONSISTENT AND WELL CO-ORDINATED CASE PLANNING AS WELL AS SENSITIVITY TO THE NEEDS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL CHILD,+ HE SAID.

SOCIAL WORKERS, HE ADDED, WERE ALWAYS AWARE THAT THE ACTION SELECTED AT THE TIME CHILDREN CAME INTO CARE WOULD HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON THEIR FUTURE HAPPINESS AND WELL-BEING.

REFERRING TO A DEPARTMENT SURVEY ON STATUTORY CARE AND PROTECTION CASES CONDUCTED LAST YEAR, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT SUCH CASES FELL INTO TWO MAIN GROUPS -- CHILDREN WHO ARE FIRST AND FOREMOST IN NEED OF CARE, AND THOSE IN NEED OF SUPERVISION BECAUSE THEY ARE BEYOND PARENTAL CONTROL OR IN MORAL DANGER.

HE SAID THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE EMPOWERED A JUVENILE COURT MAGISTRATE TO APPOINT THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE AS THE LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A CHILD BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURT IF HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE CHILD WAS IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION.

/WHERE THE

WHERE THE CHILD HAS BEEN ORPHANED, ABANDONED OR GIVEN UP BY THE NATURAL PARENTS THE USUAL COURSE IS FOR HIM TO BE MADE A WARD OF THE DIRECTOR, WHICH HE WILL REMAIN EITHER UNTIL HE REACHES 21 OR UNTIL HE IS LEGALLY ADOPTED.

+I HAVE NO LESS THAN 800 SUCH WARDS, WHICH I SUPPOSE MAKES ME THE GUARDIAN OF MORE CHILDREN THAN ANYONE ELSE IN HONG KONG,+ MR CHAMBERS SAID.

SPEAKING OF CHILD ABUSE CASES, MR CHAMBERS SAID SUCH CASES WERE MUCH MORE COMPLICATED THAN THOSE OF ABANDONED OR ORPHANED CHILDREN.

PARENTS WOULD INVARIABLY DENY THEY HAD DELIBERATELY ABUSED THEIR CHILDREN AND WOULD RESENT OR OPPOSE INTERVENTION BY A SOCIAL WORKER.

THE SITUATION BECAME EVEN MORE DIFFICULT IN SERIOUS CASES WARRANTING CRIMINAL PROSECUTION, HE SAID.

THE MOST DIFFICULT DECISION IN THOSE CASES WAS WHETHER OR NOT TO ALLOW THE CHILD TO REMAIN WITH THE PARENT OR PARENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ABUSE, HE SAID.

THERE IS A SCHOOL OF THOUGHT THAT ARGUES IN FAVOUR OF IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF THE CHILD AS BEING THE ONLY ABSOLUTE WAY OF GUARANTEEING HIS PERSONAL SAFETY.

AGAINST THIS ARGUMENT THE SOCIAL WORKER MUST WEIGH THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING AND NURTURING THE BOND BETWEEN THE PARENTS AND THE CHILD.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE PROVIDED HIM WITH WIDE POWERS TO INTERVENE IN ANY SITUATION WHERE HE BELIEVED THAT A CHILD WAS LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO MORAL OR PHYSICAL DANGER.

TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE CASES REQUIRED INTENSIVE COUNSELLING AND FOLLOW-UP AS WELL AS CLOSE LIAISON WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND JUDICIARY.

SOCIAL WORKERS HANDLING SUCH CASES, HE SAID, HAD GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIRED DISTINCTIVE PERSONAL QUALITIES AS WELL AS EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING.

IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT EARLIER THIS YEAR THE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNIT CONSISTING OF CAREFULLY SELECTED STAFF WORKING EXCLUSIVELY ON CHILD ABUSE CASES.

AT THE END OF OCTOBER, THE UNIT WAS HANDLING 93 CASES INVOLVING 125 CHILDREN, INCLUDING ALL NEW CHILD ABUSE CASES AS WELL AS REFERRALS OF THE MORE DIFFICULT EXISTING CASES FROM FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S CENTRAL FOSTER CARE UNIT IS NOW WELL ESTABLISHED AND OPEN TO ENQUIRIES FROM PROSPECTIVE FOSTER PARENTS.

WITH THE HELP OF SEVERAL VOLUNTARY SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES, THE NUMBER OF FOSTER CARE PLACES IS TO BE EXPANDED FROM THE PRESENT 40 TO 120 DURING THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

+I AM CONFIDENT,+ MR CHAMBERS SAID, +THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO EXPAND THIS TYPE OF CARE STILL FURTHER AS THE CONCEPT OF FOSTER CARE BECOMES MORE WIDELY ACCEPTED IN THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.+

THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT WHERE A CHILD WAS OLDER AND THEREFORE LESS LIKELY TO BE ASSIMILATED WITHIN A NEW FAMILY, OR WHERE HE HAD ALREADY BEEN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR A LONG PERIOD, THE CHANCES OF A SUCCESSFUL FOSTER PLACEMENT WERE REDUCED.

+THIS IS WHY THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO EXPANDING SMALL GROUP HOMES,+ HE SAID.

THESE PROVIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS OF CHILDREN TO BE CARED FOR BY HOUSE-PARENTS IN ORDINARY PUBLIC HOUSING OR RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION WITH SUPERVISION AND CASEWORK SUPPORT PROVIDED BY TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS.

+THIS FORM OF CARE MINIMISES THE UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS OF LARGE CHILDREN'S HOMES WHILST NOT EXPOSING THE CHILD TO THE SAME PRESSURES TO ADAPT AND FIT IN AS HE WOULD FACE IF PLACED IN A FOSTER HOME,+ HE SAID.

+WE ARE PLANNING TO SET UP A NUMBER OF THESE HOMES IN THE NEAR FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

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EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR NEW TOWNS UNDER REVIEW

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THE PACE OF NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG IS UNPARALLELLED IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, WITH THE RESULT THAT PLANNERS HAVE NOT HAD MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE, THE SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT), MR Y.T. LI, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE SPEECH DAY OF WONG SHIU CHI MIDDLE SCHOOL IN TAI PO, MR LI CITED THE PROVISION OF SCHOOL PLACES AS AN EXAMPLE AND SAID IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO FORESEE THE PATTERN OF POPULATION MOVEMENT TO THE NEW TOWNS.

+THE BUILDING OF A PRIMARY SCHOOL NORMALLY TOOK AS LONG AS FOUR YEARS FROM THE TIME OF PLANNING.

/+IF THE

+IF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD PLANNED MORE THAN THE NORMAL NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND IF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE MOVING TO THE NEW TOWNS WERE NOT YOUNG FAMILIES, THEN A GREAT DEAL OF LAND AND MONEY WOULD HAVE BEEN WASTED,+ HE NOTED.

MR LI SAID THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, HAD DRAWN UP SHORT AND LONG-TERM MEASURES TO TACKLE THE SHORTAGE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN CERTAIN AREAS OF SOME NEW TOWNS.

+WHERE PRIMARY SCHOOL SITES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A LONG-TERM NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS, NEW SCHOOLS WILL BE BUILT.

+OTHERWISE, ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS WILL BE PROVIDED THROUGH THE CONVERSION OF THE COVERED PLAYGROUNDS OF EXISTING SCHOOLS. SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND SPACE, ALTERNATIVE COVERED PLAYGROUNDS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE SCHOOLS CONCERNED,+ HE SAID.

MR LI SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD SINCE JUNE ADOPTED A NEW PLANNING STANDARD IN THE PROVISION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES.

+IN FUTURE, THE NUMBER OF NEW PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO BE BUILT IN A DISTRICT WILL BE BASED ON THE ACTUAL ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED SIX TO 11 IN THE DISTRICT, RATHER THAN ON NINE TO 10 PER CENT OF THE ESTIMATED TOTAL POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT,+ HE EXPLAINED.

MR LI SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO WORKING ON THE DESIGN OF +FLEXIBLE+ SCHOOLS -- THOSE WHICH COULD BE USED FIRST AS PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND LATER AS SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO COPE WITH THE POPULATION BULGE.

+THE PRELIMINARY THINKING IS THAT IN FUTURE, PRIMARY SCHOOLS WILL BE BUILT BASICALLY TO THE DESIGN OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS, BUT WILL HAVE ONLY THE CLASSROOM BLOCK AND THE HALL BLOCK, LEAVING THE SPECIAL ROOM BLOCK TO BE ADDED LATER IF AND WHEN THE SCHOOL IS TURNED INTO A SECONDARY SCHOOL,+ HE REPORTED.

MR LI SAID A WORKING PARTY WITHIN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY A VISITING SCHOOL BUILDING ARCHITECT FROM BRITAIN ON THE DESIGN OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

+THIS IS LIKELY TO RESULT IN THE PROVISION OF MANY ADDITIONAL FACILITIES IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING SUCH AS SPECIAL ROOMS AND REMEDIAL TEACHING ROOMS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF NEW SUBJECTS AND NEW TEACHING STRATEGIES.

+ALTHOUGH THE NEW DESIGN HAS YET TO BE FINALISED, I CAN SAY THAT IT WILL BE AN EXCITING ONE, AND APART FROM SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF SCHOOL PROVISION IN THE NEW TOWNS, IT WILL REPRESENT ANOTHER MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN OUR PLANS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG,+ MR LI REMARKED.

JUBILEE STREET PIER DEVELOPMENT APPROVED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED A REVISED DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR THE JUBILEE STREET FERRY PIER.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATEI FERRY COMPANY ORIGINALLY APPLIED FOR PERMISSION IN 1979 TO REPLACE THE EXISTING PIER WITH A THREE-STOREY DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE INCORPORATED COMMERCIAL PREMISES ON TOP OF FOUR NEW BERTHS.

FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF THIS APPLICATION, THE COMPANY SUBMITTED IN 1982 AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 32-STOREY COMMERCIAL BLOCK AT JUBILEE STREET.

DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE PREMIUM, AND FOLLOWING THE DOWNTURN IN THE PROPERTY MARKET, HYF SUBMITTED ANOTHER REVISED DESIGN WHICH RETURNED THE PROJECT TO A LOW-RISE DEVELOPMENT OF FOUR STOREYS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE APPLICATION WAS GRANTED WITH CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

THE PRINCIPAL ONE IS THAT THE SEABED ON WHICH THE PIER WOULD BE BUILT WILL REMAIN CROWN LAND AND OWNERSHIP OF THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE WILL BE VESTED IN THE GOVERNMENT.

THE USE AND OCCUPATION OF THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE WILL REVERT TO THE GOVERNMENT IF THE COMPANY'S FRANCHISE WAS TO CEASE OR BE REVOKED AT SOME STAGE IN THE FUTURE.

THE EXISTING JUBILEE STREET PIER WAS BUILT IN 1933 AND THE FACILITIES ARE INADEQUATE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE FERRY SERVICES OPERATING FROM IT.

THE NEW PIER COMPLEX WILL INCLUDE BETTER WAITING AREAS AND PASSENGER FLOW FACILITIES AND WILL RESULT IN AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE STANDARD OF SERVICE.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO WAIVE THE PREMIUM FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT AS THIS IS IN THE BEST PUBLIC INTEREST.

AS THE PROPOSAL CALLS FOR HYF RATHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT TO MEET THE COST OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW PIER, IT REPRESENTS A SAVINGS TO PUBLIC FUNDS.

ANOTHER CONDITION OF THE ARRANGEMENT IS THAT REVENUES FROM THE DEVELOPMENT WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE INCOME DERIVED FROM FERRY OPERATIONS.

AS THIS IS TO ENABLE A REASONABLY STABLE FARE STRUCTURE TO BE MAINTAINED, THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC WILL ALSO BENEFIT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEW PIER WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1985.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1983

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BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR WORKERS
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WORKERS IN INDUSTRY ARE NOW ENJOYING A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WORKING ENVIRONMENT THANKS TO THE ENTHUSIASTIC EFFORTS IN ENFORCING SAFETY LEGISLATION BY THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR NEIL HENDERSON, WHEN OPENING THE INSPECTORATE'S SIXTH RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR IN THE YMCA WU KAI SHA YOUTH VILLAGE TODAY.

HE SAID HE WAS ALSO IMPRESSED BY THE EXTENSIVE SAFETY PROMOTION CAMPAIGNS UNDERTAKEN AND THE FORMATION OF A NUMBER OF INDUSTRY-BASED SAFETY COMMITTEES FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTILLING SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

+I AM SURE THAT ALL THESE EFFORTS WILL GO A LONG WAY IN REDUCING INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS,+ HE NOTED.

WITH THE DIVERSIFICATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRY, MR HENDERSON CONTINUED, HIGHER TECHNOLOGY WAS EMERGING AND POSED DIFFERENT INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, THE SEMINAR PROVIDED AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE INSPECTORATE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES ON DAY-TO-DAY PROBLEMS.

+THE OPPORTUNITY OF DISCUSSING WITH AND LISTENING TO OTHERS WILL HELP TO DEVELOP AMONG YOURSELVES A COMMON POOL OF TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND NEW IDEAS SO AS TO FACE FUTURE CHALLENGES,+ HE TOLD THE PARTICIPANTS.

MR HENDERSON ADDED THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT MEMBERS OF THE INSPECTORATE WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THEIR HIGH STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE, DESPITE A RESTRAINT ON GROWTH OF THE INSPECTORATE'S STAFF.

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PEOPLE URGED TO 'GET ON WITH JOB'
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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG SHOULD HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES AND GET ON WITH THEIR JOB OF MAKING HONG KONG A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH THEY COULD BRING UP THEIR CHILDREN.

+I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WE ALL TREASURE THE ESSENTIALS OF THE FREE SOCIETY WHICH HAVE MADE HONG KONG WHAT IT IS TODAY,+ SHE SAID.

SPEAKING AT A LIONS CLUB DINNER MEETING ON THE SECRET OF SUCCESS TO AN AVERAGE MAN, MRS WONG SAID FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF PERSONAL DISTINCTION AND HUMAN IMPROVEMENT, +HE MUST BE A MAN OF SUPREME COMMON SENSE+.

/+HE IS

+HE IS PATIENT AND MUST BESTIR HIMSELF TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF EVERY DAY. HE SHOULD BE EASY OF APPROACH, READY TO BE ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN. HE SHOULD HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF A HOST OF THINGS; A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE MAY BE A DANGEROUS THING, BUT LIKE MANY DANGEROUS THINGS, CAN BE EXTREMELY USEFUL,+ SHE SAID.

+HE MUST BE QUICK AND ALERT TO NOTE THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS. HE SHOULD HAVE VISION, AND LOOK AHEAD AND BE PREPARED TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE FUTURE. HE IS THE DRIVING FORCE, INSPIRING US WITH HIS VITALITY AND ACTIVITY, REPLYING ON THE SPECIALIST GENIUS TO GIVE HIS SPECIALIST SUPPORT,+ SHE ADDED.

MRS WONG SAID THAT THE OTHER FACTOR OF SUCCESS WAS +YEE HEI+ WHICH DEFIED ACCURATE CHINESE TRANSLATION.

+IT COVERS A HOST OF MEANINGS. IT CHALLENGES LOGIC. IT IS A SENTIMENT. IT IS AN EXPRESSION OF FAITH IN HUMANITY, IN SELF, AND IN FRIENDSHIP TO MANKIND AND IN INTEGRITY,+ SHE SAID.

SHE ALSO NOTED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH ONE'S COLLEAGUES AT WORK.

+THE GREATEST GENERALS ARE THOSE WHO ENDURE HARDSHIP AND SHARE WITH THEIR MEN THE HEAT AND BURDEN OF THE BATTLEFIELD,+ SHE SAID.

+MANY OF US WITH OUR AVERAGE QUALITIES WOULD ACHIEVE GREATNESS, NOT THROUGH LUCK OF BIRTH, BUT THROUGH THE APPRECIATION OF OPPORTUNITIES AND SHEER HUMAN ENDEAVOUR.

+GREATNESS OF PERSONALITY IS IMPORTANT AND MAY BE ACHIEVED BY PERSEVERANCE. GENIUS IS TWO PER CENT AND PERSPIRATION 98 PER CENT. IT IS BY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE MIND NECESSARY TO PERSEVERE THAT PERSONALITY IS FOUND,+ SHE SAID.

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IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY UNIT STRESSED

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY UNIT SHOULD BE ABLE TO EVOLVE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF HONG KONG'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION.

SPEAKING AT A VARIETY SHOW AT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL TO MARK THE OPENING OF THIS YEAR'S FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, HE SAID RAPID URBANISATION AND OTHER SOCIOLOGICAL CHANGES IN RECENT YEARS HAD LED TO MUCH STRAIN BEING PLACED ON THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY SYSTEM.

+THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMME AIMS TO STIMULATE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY, TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF FAMILY LIFE AND TO HELP PREVENT THE BREAK-UP OF FAMILIES,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT IT WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF HONG KONG'S WELFARE PROGRAMMES.

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THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN IS +BUILDING A HAPPY FAMILY+ AND TONIGHT'S VARIETY SHOW MARKED THE FIRST EVENT IN A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES TO BE HELD THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FROM RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS, AND MEMBER AGENCIES OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, WHO HAD SPENT MUCH TIME AND EFFORT DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS IN PLANNING THIS CAMPAIGN.

IN ADDITION TO THIS SHOW, A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD AT DISTRICT LEVEL, TO BE SUPPORTED BY OTHER PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES SUCH AS RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS, A TELEVISION FILM, POSTERS AND CALENDAR CARDS.

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DB TO DISCUSS CONTAINER PORT EXTENSION
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SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER PORT AND ITS IMPLICATION ON THE DISTRICT AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

A GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT OF THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, MR A.J. HARLAND WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE PLANS TO EXTEND RECLAMATION OFF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF MEI FOO SUN CHUEN TO PROVIDE LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TERMINAL NO. 6 AND ITS ASSOCIATED BACK-UP AREA.

AT THE MEETING MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE THIRD STAGE OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR ELEVATED ROAD WHICH WILL BEGIN NEXT YEAR.

THE PROJECT WILL COMPRISE A TWO-LANE ELEVATED CARRIAGEWAY RUNNING NORTHWARDS FROM YEN CHOW STREET TO LAI CHI KOK ROAD NEAR CHEUNG LAI STREET.

MEMBERS WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE RESCHEDULING OF URBAN COUNCIL PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT, AND EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN OVER THE DELAY OF BUILDING A TEMPORARY MARKET AND AN URBAN COUNCIL COMPLEX IN THE DISTRICT.

ALSO TABLED FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE A REPORT ON THE SETTING UP OF A +PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND+ TO HELP EMPLOYEES OF BUSINESS FIRMS IN TROUBLE.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE A PROPOSAL TO GIVE SIX MONTHS' PRIOR NOTICE TO RESIDENTS ON RENTAL INCREASE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN SHAM SHUI PO AND THE SETTING UP OF A HOUSING COMMITTEE UNDER THE BOARD.

TEN SEATS HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THEY ARE REQUESTED TO TELEPHONE 3-704251 FOR SEATING ARRANGEMENTS.

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COURSE FOR CAREERS MASTERS
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ABOUT 80 CAREERS MASTERS WILL TAKE PART IN A THREE-MONTH COURSE OFFERED BY THE GENERAL STUDIES DEPARTMENTS OF THE MORRISON HILL AND LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE WAS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND THEIR RELATED JOB PROSPECTS TO CAREERS MASTERS, A SPOKESMAN OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC) SAID TODAY.

THUS CAREERS MASTERS WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE DETAILED COUNSEL AND GUIDANCE CONCERNING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AT TECHNICAL INSTITUTES TO SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVERS, HE ADDED.

THE COURSE, CONSISTING OF 12 TWO-HOUR SESSIONS, WILL LAST FROM THIS WEEK TO EARLY FEBRUARY.

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES OF VTC IS HOLDING THE COURSE FOR CAREERS MASTERS.

+WHEN IT WAS FIRST HELD LAST YEAR, THE RESPONSE WAS ENCOURAGING. PLACES FOR THE CURRENT COURSE HAVE BEEN FULLY FILLED.

+THE COURSE WILL BECOME A CONTINUOUS ACTIVITY BECAUSE CAREERS MASTERS FIND IT MOST USEFUL TO THEIR COUNSEL WORK,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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CHILDREN'S BOOKS ON SHOW
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AN EXHIBITION ON CHILDREN'S BOOKS WILL BE HELD AT PUI CHING MIDDLE SCHOOL IN WATERLOO ROAD, KOWLOON, ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 26) BETWEEN 10 AM AND 4 PM.

THE EXHIBITION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LIBRARY SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG READING ASSOCIATION, IS DESIGNED TO ACQUAINT PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PUPILS WITH A SELECTION OF BOOKS CONSIDERED SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN AND AVAILABLE IN THE MARKET.

+TEACHERS SHOULD FIND THIS EXHIBITION HELPFUL IN BUILDING UP A BALANCED AND ATTRACTIVE STOCK FOR THEIR OWN CLASS LIBRARIES IN ORDER TO AROUSE STUDENTS' INTEREST IN READING,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG READING ASSOCIATION, MR WILLIAM CHENG, AND THE ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, MRS RUBY LAU, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

OLD FOLK IN FULL SWING
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AN OPEN DANCE COMPETITION FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 26) IN THE KO SHAN THEATRE.

TWENTY TEAMS OF PEOPLE, 60 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE, WILL COMPETE IN CLASSICAL, FOLK, MODERN OR HEALTHY DANCE DIVISIONS.

THE COMPETITION IS SPONSORED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD, AND JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE AND RECREATION OF THE ELDERLY, AND THE HOLY CARPENTER CHURCH MULTI-SERVICE CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONTEST WHICH WILL START AT 2 PM.

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PUBLIC URGED TO PREVENT COUNTRY FIRES
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VISITORS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE, ESPECIALLY THE COUNTRY PARKS, ARE REMINDED ABOUT +THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY TO PREVENT IT FROM BEING DAMAGED BY FIRES.+

THE DRY WEATHER CONDITIONS IN RECENT WEEKS HAVE RENDERED THE COUNTRYSIDE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO FIRES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

HE REVEALED THAT MORE THAN 120 FIRES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN COUNTRY PARKS SINCE THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER.

MORE THAN 32 000 TREES HAVE BEEN AFFECTED IN THE FIRES SO FAR THIS SEASON, AS AGAINST THE TOTAL OF 30 300 DURING THE LAST SEASON.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF THESE FIRES CANNOT BE OVER-EMPHASISED.+

PICNICKERS ARE URGED TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS WHILE VISITING THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND ARE ADVISED TO TAKE ALONG PRE-COOKED FOOD.

FOR THOSE WHO FANCY BARBECUING, THE CARDINAL RULE IS TO BARBECUE ONLY IN SITES DESIGNATED FOR THIS PURPOSE, HE SAID.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH POINT
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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN NORTH POINT FROM 10.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO 6.30 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR ROAD WORKS AT KING'S ROAD.

THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS :

- * KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND BETWEEN NORTH POINT ROAD AND SHU KUK STREET WILL BE PROHIBITED TO ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT TRAMS;
- * VEHICLES ON KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED VIA NORTH POINT ROAD AND JAVA ROAD;
- * BUSES HEADING FOR THE NORTH POINT BUS TERMINUS WILL BE DIVERTED VIA NORTH POINT ROAD, JAVA ROAD AND SHU KUK STREET;
- * EASTBOUND BUSES ON ROUTE 121 WILL PROCEED VIA KING'S ROAD, NORTH POINT ROAD, JAVA ROAD, AND THEN TURN RIGHT INTO TIN CHIU STREET AND MARBLE ROAD; AND
- * BUSES HEADING FOR QUARRY BAY WILL USE NORTH POINT ROAD AND JAVA ROAD, AT THE END OF WHICH THEY WILL ENTER KING'S ROAD.

THESE MEASURES WILL BE REPEATED FROM 10.30 PM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 26) TO NOON ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 27).

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

LAWN BOWLS FINAL ROUND
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THE FINAL ROUND OF THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL CLASSIC PAIRS 1983 WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 27) AFTERNOON AT THE KOWLOON BOWLING GREEN CLUB, AND THE CLOSING CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 5.15 PM.

CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, WILL PRESENT TROPHIES TO THE WINNERS DURING THE CEREMONY.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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SOCCER MATCH TO ROUND OFF FESTIVAL

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A FRIENDLY SOCCER MATCH BETWEEN SOUTH CHINA AND SEIKO FOOTBALL TEAMS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 26) TO MARK THE CLOSING OF THE THIRD TUEN MUN DISTRICT FESTIVAL.

IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, A TOTAL OF 26 ITEMS OF ACTIVITIES WERE HELD IN 15 VENUES IN THE DISTRICT AND ATTRACTED MORE THAN 150 000 PARTICIPANTS.

THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY AND PRESENT SOUVENIRS TO THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS AND PRIZES TO WINNERS OF THE VARIOUS COMPETITIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT FESTIVAL AT 3.30 PM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 26) AT THE TANG SHIU KIN SPORTS GROUND IN TUEN MUN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

SPORTS MEET

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ITS FIRST SPORTS MEET ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 27), AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE IN SHA TIN.

THE EVENTS WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 9 AM AND 4.30 PM.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, DR S.F. LAM, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 2 PM AND PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNERS LATER IN THE AFTERNOON.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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PLB PROHIBITED ZONE AT SHAM SHUI PO

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FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 26), THE SECTION OF WAI CHI STREET BETWEEN WAI CHI LANE AND PAK WAN STREET WILL BE PROHIBITED TO ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

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