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SHA TIN FACTORY JOBS RISE SHARPLY

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FACTORY JOBS IN SHA TIN GREW BY 54 PER CENT LAST YEAR COMPARED WITH 1982 AND THE AMOUNT OF INDUSTRIAL FLOOR SPACE INCREASED BY 46 PER CENT.

THIS HAS BEEN REVEALED IN AN INDUSTRIAL SURVEY CARRIED OUT IN JULY AND AUGUST LAST YEAR BY SHA TIN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THERE WERE 7 909 JOBS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN 1982, BUT THIS FIGURE HAD RISEN TO 12 167 WHEN THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED.

FACTORY FLOOR SPACE ROSE FROM 233 000 SQUARE METRES TO 340 000 SQUARE METRES.

THE SURVEY ALSO SHOWED THAT CHEAPER RENTS WAS A MAJOR FACTOR ATTRACTING COMPANIES TO THE NEW TOWN.

ABOUT 42 PER CENT OF EMPLOYERS SAID THEY HAD DECIDED TO OPERATE IN SHA TIN BECAUSE RENTS WERE CHEAPER THAN IN THE URBAN AREA, WHILE NEARLY 30 PER CENT SAID THE REASON WAS THAT THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO FIND SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE URBAN AREA. ABOUT 14 PER CENT SAID THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE BECAUSE OF CONVENIENT TRANSPORTATION.

ON THE QUESTION OF TRANSPORT, 52 PER CENT COMPLAINED OF INCONVENIENCE, WHILE 30 PER CENT SAID THEY HAD NO PROBLEMS.

ON EMPLOYING WORKERS, NEARLY 56 PER CENT SAID THEY HAD NO PROBLEMS.

QUESTIONNAIRES WERE SENT TO THE 777 INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE THREE PLANNING AREAS OF SHA TIN, OF WHOM ALL BUT 18 RESPONDED.

IN ADDITION, 1 084 WORKERS WERE INTERVIEWED.

OF THE 759 FIRMS WHICH RESPONDED, ABOUT 69 PER CENT SAID THEY HAD MOVED TO SHA TIN FROM OTHER LOCATIONS, ESPECIALLY KOWLOON. ABOUT 80 PER CENT HAD BROUGHT IN ALL OR SOME OF THEIR WORKFORCE.

TO ATTRACT WORKERS, COMPANIES OFFERED VARIOUS INCENTIVES, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION, FREE LUNCHES, AWARDS FOR HARD WORK, MEDICAL BENEFITS AND LONG SERVICE AWARDS.

REPLIES FROM WORKERS SHOWED THAT 45 PER CENT LIVED IN SHA TIN, WHILE ANOTHER 25 PER CENT RESIDED IN KOWLOON. NEARLY 48 PER CENT TRAVELLED TO WORK BY BUS, WHILE 28 PER CENT TRAVELLED BY COMPANY COACH. OTHERS WALKED, OR USED TRAINS AND MINI-BUSES.

/DESPITE SOME .....

DESPITE SOME DISSATISFACTION EXPRESSED BY EMPLOYERS ABOUT THE MOBILITY OF SHA TIN WORKERS, THE SURVEY SHOWED THAT THEY WERE LESS MOBILE IN COMPARISON WITH THE TERRITORY-WIDE PATTERN, WITH ALMOST 40 PER CENT SAYING THAT THEY HAD NOT CHANGED THEIR JOBS DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

ON REASONS FOR WORKING IN SHA TIN, 42 PER CENT SAID IT WAS DUE TO THE CLOSE PROXIMITY OF PLACE OF WORK TO RESIDENCE AND 23 PER CENT SAID THEY HAD MOVED WHEN THEIR FIRMS HAD DECIDED TO DO SO. THIRTY EIGHT PER CENT SAID THEY DID NOT HAVE ANY DIFFICULTIES IN WORKING IN SHA TIN.

ON TRANSPORTATION, HOWEVER, 31 PER CENT CLAIMED IT WAS INCONVENIENT AND 22 PER CENT COMPLAINED ABOUT INADEQUATE TRANSPORT PROVIDED. OTHER COMPLAINTS WERE ABOUT THE INADEQUACY OF RECREATIONAL AND SHOPPING FACILITIES, MEDICAL SERVICES, ENTERTAINMENT CENTRES, CANTEEN FACILITIES AND CULTURAL VENUES.

IMPROVEMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WAS SUGGESTED BY 24.2 PER CENT OF WORKERS, BUT A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE SURVEY WAS CARRIED OUT, TAI WAI RAILWAY STATION HAD OPENED AND CONSTRUCTION OF A STATION AT FO TAN HAD STARTED.

ABOUT 42 PER CENT OF WORKERS HAD LUNCH IN THE FACTORY CANTEEN, THE SURVEY DISCOVERED.

SALARIES OF WORKERS RANGED FROM A LOW OF UNDER $2 000 PER MONTH TO A HIGH OF OVER $5 000 PER MONTH, WITH MOST IN THE $1 500 - $2 000 RANGE.

THE SURVEY SAID THE POPULATION OF SHA TIN WAS 237 670 AND THE POTENTIAL INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE, THERFORE, 46 108. ANOTHER 10 614 INDUSTRIAL JOBS WOULD BE PROVIDED WHEN THE PRESENT NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS WAS FULLY OCCUPIED.

THE GARMENT AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES EMPLOYED THE LARGEST NUMBER OF WORKERS IN SHA TIN (2 643), FOLLOWED BY ELECTRONICS (2 277). THERE WERE JUST OVER 1 000 INDUSTRIAL JOB VACANCIES IN THE NEW TOWN AT THE TIME THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED.

THE REPORT SHOWED THAT THERE WERE 49.28 HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL LAND IN SHA TIN OF WHICH ABOUT ONE QUARTER HAD BEEN DEVELOPED. ABOUT 3.5 HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL LAND HAD BEEN ADDED SINCE THE 1982 SURVEY.

THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF FLOOR SPACE (104 383.20 SQUARE METRES) WAS TAKEN BY WAREHOUSES, FOLLOWED BY GARMENTS AND TEXTILES (43 273.44 SQUARE METRES) AND FOOD (37 499.60 SQUARE METRES).

THE FIRST INDUSTRIAL SURVEY OF SHA TIN WAS CARRIED OUT IN APRIL, 1982.

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NOVEMBER PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE

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THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE, ON AVERAGE, BY 17 PER CENT AND 16 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY SO THAT, FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, PRICES WERE UP BY 17 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER 1983 OVER NOVEMBER 1982, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

MEANWHILE, THE PRICES OF IMPORTS ALSO ROSE BY 17 PER CENT.

AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) REMAINED AT 99.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH ROSE BY 25 PER CENT, SO THAT THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS ALSO INCREASED BY 25 PER CENT.

MEANWHILE, THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 19 PER CENT.

SINCE THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND OF RE-EXPORTS BOTH INCREASED BY NINE PER CENT IN THE FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF 1983 OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF LAST YEAR, DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH GREW BY 15 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

AS THE PRICES OF IMPORTS WERE 11 PER CENT HIGHER OVER THE SAME PERIOD, IMPORTS RECORDED A NINE PER CENT GROWTH IN VOLUME TERMS.

COMPARISON OF THE 12 MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER LAST YEAR WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 1982 SHOWS THAT THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS ROSE, ON AVERAGE, BY EIGHT PER CENT, NINE PER CENT AND 10 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH INCREASED BY 14 PER CENT THUS GIVING A 14 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS.

MEANWHILE, THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS ROSE BY NINE PER CENT.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED.

CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM CHANGES IN TRADE VALUES, AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

AS SEEN FROM TABLE 1, THE EXPORTS PRICES OF ALL COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED, FROM FIVE PER CENT FOR RADIOS OF ALL KINDS TO 21 PER CENT FOR CLOTHING.

DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF NEARLY ALL COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+58%), TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+57%) AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+52%). HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-4%), AND METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-12%).

/THE CHANGES .....

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES ROSE, WITH INCREASES RANGING FROM 10 PER CENT FOR FUELS TO 19 PER CENT FOR BOTH CONSUMER GOODS AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES.

MANY OF THE MAJOR IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS INCREASED IN VOLUME TERMS, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING SUGAR, MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS, FRUIT, SWINE, AS WELL AS FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS. HOWEVER, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY.

IN THE CONSUMER GOODS CATEGORY, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS, PASSENGER MOTOR CARS, HOUSEHOLD-TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, WATCHES AND CLOTHING. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS RECORDED FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MOST RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE. SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR SILK FABRICS, MAN-MADE FIBRES, YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES, CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS, THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS, YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES, LEATHER AND DRESSED FUR SKINS, AND PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS.

HOWEVER, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW COTTON, WATCH AND CLOCK MOVEMENTS, CASES AND PARTS AND CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND BUILDING MATERIALS EXCEPT GLASS, DROPPED MODERATELY.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DROPPED BY 17 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF NEARLY ALL COMMODITIES INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, THE MORE REMARKABLE ONES BEING TEXTILE MACHINERY, OFFICE MACHINES, SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS, AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY.

HOWEVER, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT DECREASED SLIGHTLY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES ROSE, WITH THE INCREASES RANGING FROM 11 PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS TO 36 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE NOVEMBER 1983 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS+. COPIES OF THE ISSUE ARE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK$2 EACH.

/TABLE 1 : .....

TABLE 1 : CHANGES COMPARING NOVEMBER 1983 WITH NOVEMBER 1982 OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	EXPORT VALUE	EXPORT UNIT VALUE	EXPORT VOLUME
CLOTHING (EXCEPT FUR)	+43%	+21%	+18%
TEXTILE FABRICS	+64%	+15%	+43%
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	+69%	+18%	+43%
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	+88%	+20%	+57%
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	+33%	+ 5%	+27%
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	+67%	+10%	+52%
FOOTWEAR	+38%	+15%	+20%
METAL MANUFACTURES	+49%	+12%	+33%
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	+ 6%	+19%	-12%
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	+12%	+16%	- 4%
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	+50%	+13%	+33%
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	+76%	+12%	+58%
ALL COMMODITIES	+45%	+17%	+25%

TABLE 2 : CHANGES COMPARING NOVEMBER 1983 WITH NOVEMBER 1982 OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	IMPORT VALUE	IMPORT UNIT VALUE	IMPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	+30%	+16%	+12%
CONSUMER GOODS	+33%	+19%	+12%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+59%	+19%	+34%
FUELS	- 9%	+10%	-17%
CAPITAL GOODS	+35%	+14%	+18%
ALL COMMODITIES	+40%	+17%	+19%

/TABLE 3 : .....

TABLE 3 : CHANGES COMPARING NOVEMBER 1983 WITH NOVEMBER 1982 OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	RE-EXPORT VALUE	RE-EXPORT UNIT VALUE	RE-EXPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	+35%	+22%	+11%
CONSUMER GOODS	+37%	+15%	+19%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+54%	+16%	+32%
FUELS	+40%	+19%	+17%
CAPITAL GOODS	+57%	+16%	+36%
ALL COMMODITIES	+46%	+16%	+25%

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PUBLIC URGED TO TAKE FIRE PRECAUTIONS

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FIRE RISKS ARE HIGH IN MANY OF HONG KONG'S OLD TENEMENT BUILDINGS, PARTICULARLY THOSE STILL EQUIPPED WITH OLD FIRE SAFETY MEASURES.

+THESE BUILDINGS MAY THUS RECEIVE GREATER DAMAGE IN CASE OF FIRE,+ MR TAM YUK-FAN, SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER (KOWLOON WEST) OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WARNED TODAY.

AS AN EXAMPLE, HE CITED AN EIGHT-STOREY RESIDENTIAL BLOCK IN MONG KOK WHERE A FIRE BROKE OUT ON DECEMBER 8, KILLING FOUR PEOPLE AND INJURING 11 OTHERS.

+THE HIGH CASUALTY FIGURE WAS DUE TO THE RAPID SPREAD OF THE FIRE AND SMOKE, MR TAM, WHO DIRECTED THE RESCUE OPERATION, POINTED OUT.

INFLAMMABLE WOODEN PARTITIONS IN THE BUILDING AND THE BLOCKAGE OF ESCAPE ROUTES AGGRAVATED THE SITUATION, HE RECALLED.

MR TAM SAID THIS FIRE UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING EFFICIENT SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN MULTI-STOREY DOMESTIC BUILDINGS.

THE SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER OF THE FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU, MR CHOW WING-CHEONG, IN A SEPARATE WARNING STRESSED THAT SMOKE LOBBY DOORS MUST REMAIN CLOSED AND ESCAPE ROUTES CLEARED OF OBSTRUCTIONS.

/+ANY PERSON .....

+ANY PERSON WHO LEAVES SMOKE LOBBY DOORS OPEN OR KEEPS THEM LOCKED IS ENDANGERING HIS OWN LIFE AND THOSE OF OTHERS.

+HE IS ALSO COMMITTING AN OFFENCE PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF UP TO $25 000,+ HE WARNED.

THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN TAKING STERN ACTION AGAINST PEOPLE WHO VIOLATE FIRE SAFETY REGULATIONS.

+DURING THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF 1983, A TOTAL OF 3 781 FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES WERE ISSUED, WITH 2 394 CASES BROUGHT TO COURT AND FINES OF MORE THAN $1 MILLION IMPOSED,+ MR CHOW SAID.

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TAXI FARE TABLES -- NO NEED FOR RUSH

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TAXI CONVERSION TABLES ADVERTISED IN THE NEWSPAPERS CAN BE USED FOR DISPLAY IN TAXIS WHEN THE NEW FARES COME INTO EFFECT ON FEBRUARY 8.

THE TABLES WILL BE PLACED AS ADVERTISMENTS ON FEBRUARY 6 AND 7 IN TWO ENGLISH AND FOUR CHINESE NEWSPAPERS.

+IN THIS CASE, TAXI OPERATORS CAN SIMPLY CUT OUT THE TABLES FROM THE NEWSPAPERS FOR USE BEFORE THE METERS ARE RECALIBRATED. THERE IS NO NEED TO RUSH TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S LICENSING OFFICES ON FEBRUARY 6 TO COLLECT THE TABLES,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID.

TAXI CONVERSION TABLES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TAXI OPERATORS AT ALL TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT LICENSING OFFICES FROM FEBRUARY 6. HOWEVER, FROM FEBRUARY 13 THE TABLES WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC VEHICLE SECTION, ROOM 906 - 909, HUTCHISON HOUSE, 10 HARCOURT ROAD, HONG KONG.

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SIR ROBERT HO TUNG FUND ALLOCATIONS

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GRANTS TOTALLING ABOUT $9.2 MILLION FROM THE SIR ROBERT HO TUNG CHARITABLE FUND HAVE BEEN MADE RECENTLY TO 76 CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS IN HONG KONG.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY MR GEOFFREY BARNES, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVISING THE GOVERNOR ON THE ALLOCATION OF THE FUNDS AVAILABLE.

THE SIR ROBERT HO TUNG CHARITABLE FUND IS ONE OF THE LARGEST CHARITABLE TRUSTS IN HONG KONG. IT WAS ESTABLISHED BY A BEQUEST OF $500 000 BY THE LATE SIR ROBERT HO TUNG ON HIS DEATH IN 1956. THE FUND IS ADMINISTERED BY THE HONG KONG BANK TRUSTEE LTD.

/MR BARNES .....

MR BARNES SAID THAT MAJOR GRANTS THIS YEAR INCLUDED $1 468 400 TO THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, THE BULK OF WHICH IS FOR THE PURCHASE OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND FOR THE PROPOSED TUEN MUN SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE PROJECT.

THE UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL RECEIVED A GRANT OF $654 300 TO PURCHASE VARIOUS ITEMS OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, THE LARGER ONES BEING AN AUTO-ANALYSER AND A FETAL HEART MONITOR.

CARITAS, HONG KONG, WAS GIVEN $603 000, OF WHICH $141 000 WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT FOR ITS NURSERIES, KINDERGARTENS, SOCIAL CENTRES, CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY AND HOSTELS, AND $462 000 FOR THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE TO PURCHASE AN AUTOMATIC BIOCHEMISTRY ANALYSER.

THE HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS CHEST AND HEART DISEASES ASSOCIATION RECEIVED $580 400, OF WHICH $307 400 WILL BE USED FOR THE RUTTONJEE SANATORIUM TO PURCHASE VARIOUS ITEMS OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, AND $273 000 FOR THE GRANTHAM HOSPITAL TO ACQUIRE A DIAGNOSTIC X-RAY SYSTEM WITH AN IMAGE INTENSIFIER TV MONITORING UNIT.

THE ALICE HO MIU LING NETHERSOLE HOSPITAL WAS GIVEN $526 200 TO PURCHASE A BLOOD GAS ANALYSER FOR ITS LABORATORY, A TRANSCULTANEOUS BLOOD GAS SYSTEM FOR THE NEONATAL UNIT AND OTHER ITEMS OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.

A DONATION OF $482 000 WAS GIVEN TO THE HONG KONG ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY TO ACQUIRE TWO MORTUARY REFRIGERATORS.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF DISABLED CHILDREN WAS GIVEN $442 800, OF WHICH $390 500 WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE A FLAT-WORK IRONER FOR THE LAUNDRY OF THE DUCHESS OF KENT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

A SUM OF $431 800 WAS GIVEN TO THE PO LEUNG KUK, MAINLY TO RENOVATE THE VOCATIONAL BUILDING WHERE THE BABIES SECTION IS HOUSED, THE KO CHIU ROAD SHELTERED WORKSHOP AND HOSTEL AND TO CARRY OUT WORKS AT THE PAK TAM CHUNG HOLIDAY CAMP.

A SUM OF $379 800 WAS GIVEN TO PROVIDE MILK FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN 59 SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND TO ALLOW THEM TO GO ON OUTINGS AND EDUCATIONAL VISITS. ANOTHER $217 200 WAS TO SUBSIDISE THE HANDICAPPED AND UNDERPRIVILEDGED SCHOOL CHILDREN TO ATTEND OUTDOOR EDUCATION CAMPS.

A GRANT OF $296 300 WAS MADE TO THE HONG KONG RED CROSS TO PROMOTE ITS DONOR RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN AND TO BUY SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FOR ITS SCHOOLS.

A GRANT OF $262 900 WAS GIVEN TO THE EVANGEL HOSPITAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR ITS LABORATORY AND OPERATING THEATRE.

THE EVANGEL CHILDREN'S HOME WAS GRANTED $265 000 TO RENOVATE ITS 20-YEAR-OLD BUILDING AND TO REPLACE THE WORN-OUT EQUIPMENT. ANOTHER $216 800 WAS DONATED TO THE DIAMOND HILL KWONG YUM HOME FOR THE AGED TO RENOVATE AND EQUIP ITS KITCHEN.

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THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL AND OUR LADY OF MARYKNOLL HOSPITAL WERE EACH GRANTED ABOUT $200 000 TO PURCHASE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.

THE SALVATION ARMY WAS GIVEN $178 900 TO PURCHASE TOYS AND EQUIPMENT FOR ITS NURSERIES-YOUTH CENTRES, HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ETC.

THE HAVEN OF HOPE HOSPITAL WAS GRANTED $166 200 TO PURCHASE PHYSIOTHERAPY EQUIPMENT.

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NT LITTERBUGS PAY $3.5M IN FINES

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SOME $3.5 MILLION WAS PAID IN FINES BY 35 000 PEOPLE FOR LITTERING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE LAST THREE YEARS OF THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN.

ALL THAT MONEY COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED BY THE PEOPLE BY SIMPLY OBSERVING THE ANTI-LITTER LAWS WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO KEEP THE CITY CLEAN, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

LAST YEAR, 9 550 LITTERBUGS WERE FINED A TOTAL OF $1.25 MILLION. THE HIGHEST SINGLE FINE WAS $1 700.

IN 1982, 12 300 OFFENDERS WERE FINED A TOTAL OF $1.16 MILLION, INDICATING THAT THE FINES WERE GETTING HEAVIER. AMONG THOSE CONVICTED WERE MANY REPEAT OFFENDERS.

+LITTERING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND VIGILANCE WILL BE KEPT UP AGAINST OFFENDERS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TO HELP IN THE ANTI-LITTER EFFORT, A COMPUTER SYSTEM HAS BEEN SET UP BY THE NTSD TO PROVIDE QUICK DATA ON PREVIOUS OFFENDERS.

PREVIOUSLY, NO RECORDS OF LITTER OFFENDERS WERE KEPT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. AS A RESULT, LITTERBUGS WERE ALL TREATED AS FIRST OFFENDERS.

THE NTSD'S COMPUTER SYSTEM NOW RECORDS ALL LITTER OFFENCES, LIKE IN THE URBAN AREA, WHERE A COMPUTER SYSTEM COMMISSIONED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL, ALSO OPERATES.

URGING THE PUBLIC TO BE MORE SOCIAL CONSCIOUS BY NOT LITTERING PUBLIC PLACES, THE NTSD SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE COST OF CLEANING UP CARELESSLY DISCARDED REFUSE WAS ENORMOUS.

HE WARNED THAT LITTERING IN PUBLIC PLACES OR FROM PRIVATE CARS, GOODS VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES COULD RESULT IN A FINE OF $5 000 AND A JAIL SENTENCE OF UP TO SIX MONTHS.

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NEW ENQUIRY CENTRE FOR WATER CONSUMERS

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL OPEN ITS FOURTH ENQUIRY CENTRE FOR CONSUMERS TOMORROW (MONDAY), ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY HOUSE AT SHA TIN.

THE BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR TOM MCDONOUGH, DESCRIBED THE OPENING AS A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THE DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR ITS 1.2 MILLION CONSUMERS.

THE NEW CENTRE WILL BE OPEN FROM 8.30 AM - 4.30 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM - 11.30 AM ON SATURDAYS.

IT WILL DEAL WITH ENQUIRIES FROM CONSUMERS ON ALL ASPECTS OF WATER ACCOUNTS.

A COMPUTER VISUAL DISPLAY UNIT HAS BEEN INSTALLED AT THE CENTRE TO SPEED UP HANDLING OF ENQUIRIES.

BILLS, HOWEVER, SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE SETTLED EITHER BY CHEQUE THROUGH THE POST OR AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE SIXTH FLOOR OF KCR HOUSE, MR MCDONOUGH POINTED OUT.

THE DEPARTMENT'S OTHER THREE ENQUIRY CENTRES ARE AT LEIGHTON CENTRE, CAUSEWAY BAY; TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING IN TING KOK ROAD; AND THE ARGYLE STREET DEPOT, MONG KOK.

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SAI KUNG TO HAVE TOWN HALL SOON

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CONSTRUCTION OF A TOWN HALL IN SAI KUNG TOWN CENTRE WILL BEGIN NEXT MONTH AND BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE YEAR, A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

STAGE I DEVELOPMENT, AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF $11.2 MILLION, INCLUDES A SINGLE-STOREY AIR-CONDITIONED MULTI-PURPOSE HALL WITH A SEATING CAPACITY OF 1 000 AND AN ANNEX TO ACCOMMODATE MANAGEMENT STAFF.

+ALLOWANCE HAS ALSO BEEN MADE FOR STAGE II DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY INCLUDE A PUBLIC LIBRARY, A NURSERY, A SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, A YOUTH CENTRE, ACTIVITIES ROOMS AND A RESTAURANT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT PILING WORK FOR THE TOWN HALL HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND TENDERS ARE BEING CALLED FOR THE SUPERSTRUCTURE.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE SAI KUNG TOWN HALL WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH ANOTHER DONATION OF $3.5 MILLION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB RECENTLY.

/+THIS, TOGETHER .....

+THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE CLUB'S PREVIOUS GRANT OF $4 MILLION, RAISES ITS TOTAL CONTRIBUTION FOR THE PROJECT TO $7.5 MILLION,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE IDEA OF A TOWN HALL HAD BEEN FIRST CONCEIVED BY A GROUP OF LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO LATER FORMED THEMSELVES INTO THE SAI KUNG TOWN HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE COMPANY LIMITED IN 1981.

+THEIR PRIME OBJECTIVE IS TO PROVIDE A PERMANENT VENUE FOR CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT, WHICH CAN HELP PROMOTE COMMUNITY SPIRIT,+ HE SAID.

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FESTIVE PROGRAMME FOR NORTH DISTRICT

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A 15-DAY LUNAR NEW YEAR PROGRAMME FOR NORTH DISTRICT RESIDENTS WILL BEGIN NEXT SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 12).

TO START OFF THE PROGRAMME, A CHINESE ORCHESTRA AND OPERA PERFORMANCE WILL BE STAGED AT 2.30 PM AT SHEUNG SHUI TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA AND A VARIETY SHOW WILL BE PUT ON AT SHA TAU KOK.

ON FEBRUARY 15, A PUPPET SHOW WILL BE STAGED AT FANLING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA, WHILE ON FEBRUARY 18 AN EXHIBITION OF CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE NORTH DISTRICT TOWN HALL.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE AN ANTI-NARCOTICS VARIETY SHOW, A CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL, A CHINESE ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE AND A LONG DISTANCE RACE FROM TA KWU LING TO SHEUNG SHUI.

ABOUT $160 000 WILL BE SPENT ON THE FESTIVE PROGRAMME, OF WHICH $93 000 HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD.

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ROLLER SKATING FUN DAY AT FANLING

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A ROLLER SKATING FUN DAY TO BE HELD IN FANLING NEXT SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 12).

ORGANISED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE EVENT WITH DISCO MUSIC WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE ROLLER SKATING RINK OF THE FANLING RECREATION GROUND BETWEEN 2 PM AND 5 PM.

THE FUN DAY IS AIMED AT PROVIDING ENTERTAINMENT FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR AND AT PROMOTING THE SPORT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

MORE THAN 30 MEMBERS FROM THE HONG KONG SWAN SKATING GROUP WILL DEMONSTRATE THEIR TECHNIQUES AND GIVE TRAINING TO PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE REQUESTED TO BRING ALONG THEIR OWN ROLLER SKATES.

ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF SKATES WILL BE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

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BAND BRINGS CHEER TO ELDERLY PEOPLE

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THE ISLAND YOUTH BAND, SET UP BY THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT'S MUSIC OFFICE, THIS (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON BROUGHT CHEER TO ABOUT 400 ELDERLY PEOPLE LIVING AT TWO HOMES FOR THE AGED.

THE 60 MEMBERS OF THE BAND ENTERTAINED THESE SENIOR CITIZENS WITH MUSICAL PERFORMANCES AND DISTRIBUTED LUNAR NEW YEAR GIFTS TO THEM.

THE ELDERLY PEOPLE, WHO LIVE AT THE DAVID TRENCH HOME AND THE ST MARY'S HOME FOR THE AGED, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE BAND'S WARM HOSPITALITY.

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WONG CHUK HANG ROAD TO BE WIDENED

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WORK IS TO START AFTER CHINESE NEW YEAR ON WIDENING AND RE-CONSTRUCTING A SECTION OF WONG CHUK HANG ROAD.

A CONTRACT VALUED AT $2.46 MILLION HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE TO LAFE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED TO CARRY OUT THE WORK.

THE SECTION OF ROAD AFFECTED IS BETWEEN NAM LONG SHAN ROAD AND WONG CHUK HANG INTERCHANGE.

AS PART OF THE CONTRACT, A SECTION OF HEUNG YIP ROAD WILL BE WIDENED AND EXTENDED TO PROVIDE A CONNECTION TO OCEAN PARK AND BETTER ACCESS TO THE WONG CHUK HANG INDUSTRIAL AREA.

WORK WILL START ON FEBRUARY 10 AND TAKE NINE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN — SUPPLEMENT

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1984

GOVERNOR'S LUNAR NEW YEAR MESSAGE 1984

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FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE'S LUNAR NEW YEAR MESSAGE DELIVERED ON THURSDAY EVENING (FEBRUARY 2).

+NEW YEAR IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TIME IN THE FAMILY CALENDAR. IT IS THE TIME TO GATHER TOGETHER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS, AND A TIME TO TAKE STOCK OF THE YEAR THAT HAS PASSED AND THE YEAR THAT IS TO COME. THIS IS OUR SECOND NEW YEAR IN HONG KONG. DURING OUR TIME HERE IT HAS BECOME A SPECIAL PLACE FOR US. WE VALUE GREATLY THE FRIENDSHIPS WE HAVE MADE AND THE WARMTH OF THE GOOD FEELING WHICH HAS BEEN SHOWN TOWARDS US. WE FEEL VERY MUCH A PART OF THE BIG FAMILY OF HONG KONG.

+OURS IS A UNIQUE COMMUNITY : ALWAYS READY TO ADAPT, TO INNOVATE, AND TO FACE WHATEVER CHALLENGES CONFRONT US. LIKE ALL SOCIETIES HONG KONG HAS ITS SHORTCOMINGS; BUT NOWHERE IS THERE A COMMUNITY MORE RESILIENT, MORE ENDOWED WITH GOOD SENSE, DETERMINATION AND HIGH ENDEAVOUR. THESE ARE THE QUALITIES WHICH HAVE BUILT THE HONG KONG WE KNOW TODAY.

+AT THE DAWN OF THE NEW YEAR, WE CAN PAUSE TO REFLECT ON THESE QUALITIES. THEY HAVE BROUGHT HONG KONG THROUGH SO MANY DIFFICULT TIMES IN THE PAST. THEY MUST SURELY GIVE US CONFIDENCE WITH WHICH TO FACE THE FUTURE. THIS IS THE TIME, TOO, TO REFLECT ON WHAT LIFE HAS TO OFFER HERE : ON THE FREEDOMS WHICH WE ARE ABLE TO TAKE FOR GRANTED AND WHICH ENABLE OUR SOCIETY TO FLOURISH, ON WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN HONG KONG AND ON HOW MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE.

+OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE ALL BEEN DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WHICH WILL SECURE ITS LONG-TERM STABILITY AND PROSPERITY. WE SHALL CONTINUE WITH THAT TASK WITH UNDIMINISHED DETERMINATION. THERE HAS BEEN AND WILL BE NO MORE IMPORTANT CALL ON OUR TIME AND ENERGY. WE KNOW VERY WELL WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE LOOKING FOR -- THE CONTINUATION OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN OUR SOCIETY AND ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE. THAT IS WHAT WE ARE WORKING FOR.

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+IN THE MEANTIME, WE SAY GOODBYE TO A YEAR WHICH BROUGHT MUCH ANXIETY TO US ALL. TOGETHER, WE CAME THROUGH THOSE DIFFICULTIES. THE DOLLAR IS AGAIN STABLE. THE ECONOMY IS GAINING STRENGTH. OUR TRADE FIGURES ARE IMPRESSIVE. AND I BELIEVE THE FACT THAT WE HAD TO OVERCOME THOSE DIFFICULTIES HAD THE EFFECT OF STRENGTHENING OUR RESOLVE. ALTHOUGH IN THE LAST FEW YEARS OUR RESOURCES HAVE BEEN MORE LIMITED, NOTHING WILL DETER US FROM DOING ALL WE CAN TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH OUR PEOPLE LIVE, THE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THEM, OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM AND OTHER PROGRAMMES WHICH WILL SHAPE THE LIFE-STYLE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.

+THE INNATE STRENGTHS OF OUR COMMUNITY; ITS COHESION AND SENSE OF PURPOSE WILL STAND US IN GOOD STEAD IN THE YEAR OF THE RAT. THE COMING YEAR IS A PARTICULARLY AUSPICIOUS ONE -- WITH DOUBLE SPRING AND DOUBLE RAINFALL (SIGNS OF GOOD FORTUNE AND PROSPERITY). IN SUCH A YEAR AND WITH SUCH STRENGTHS, I AM CERTAIN WE CAN MOVE AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE IN OURSELVES AND IN OUR FUTURE.+

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