



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1986

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ENGINEERS THANKED FOR CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG

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THE CONTRIBUTION THAT THE PROFESSIONS MADE TO THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY OF HONG KONG WAS BEYOND QUESTION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TONIGHT.

AND IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS CONTRIBUTION THAT 12 DIRECTLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF KEY PROFESSIONS HAD TAKEN THEIR SEATS IN THE LEGISLATURE, HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE 11TH ANNUAL DINNER OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SIR DAVID NOTED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROFESSION, AND SAID THAT IT WAS REASSURING TO EVERYONE IN HONG KONG THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT SEEING DRAMATIC EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING PROGRESS.

+THE ENGINEERING PROJECTS OF RECENT YEAR, TO WHICH YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART, HAVE CAPTURED THE ENVY AND ADMIRATION OF THE WORLD. ENVY THAT WE HAVE HAD THE ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO EMBARK UPON AND COMPLETE THESE PROJECTS; AND ADMIRATION THAT, DESPITE ALL THE PROBLEM OF AN UNCOMPROMISING ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH SO MANY PEOPLE ARE CROWDED TOGETHER, WE HAVE SURMOUNTED THESE PROBLEMS AND THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT CONTINUES TO IMPROVE.

+OUR THANKS TONIGHT, THEN, GO TO YOU, THE ENGINEERS OF HONG KONG,+ SIR DAVID SAID.

SIR DAVID DESCRIBED SOME OF THE MAJOR PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF HONG KONG IN THE 11 YEARS SINCE THE INSTITUTION WAS FORMED IN 1975, AND SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN +YEAR OF CHANGE AND IMPROVEMENT, BUT NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF CONCRETE AND STEEL --- HONG KONG IS NOW CLEANER AND GREENER.+

AND THERE HAD ALSO BEEN GROWTH IN THE STRENGTH OF LOCAL PROFESSIONALS -- LAWYERS, ARCHITECTS, DOCTORS, DENTISTS, SURVEYORS, ENGINEERS, ACCOUNTANTS AND OTHERS.

+THIS TOO GIVES HONG KONG GREAT INTERNAL STRENGTH AND SELF RELIANCE, AND IT IS AN ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF STRENGTH THAT MANY OF OUR PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED EITHER INITIAL OR FURTHER TRAINING IN OTHER COUNTRIES,+ SIR DAVID SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE ENGINEERS NOW +STAND AT A MID-POINT BETWEEN THE 11 YEARS SINCE YOUR INSTITUTION WAS FORMED AND LOOK FORWARD THROUGH THE NEXT 11 YEARS AND SURVEY THE WORK THAT LIES AHEAD TO TURN THE BLACK AND WHITE OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF HONG KONG PROVIDED IN IT INTO A REALITY.+

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID ALSO TOLD THEM:

+THE BLUE PRINT BACKED BY GUARANTEES IS THERE, THE PEOPLE ARE HERE.

+WE HAVE ALL THE SKILLS AT OUR COMMAND, WE MUST HAVE THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE CAN COMPLETE THE TASK, JUST AS WE HAVE TACKLED AND SURMOUNTED SO MANY PROBLEMS IN THE PAST, WITH IMAGINATION, VISION, DETERMINATION AND PRACTICAL GOOD SENSE.+

HE WAS CONFIDENT OF THEIR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY, SIR DAVID CONCLUDED.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE TEXT OF SIR DAVID'S SPEECH HAS BEEN BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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BANKING BILL PUBLISHED

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A BILL WILL SOON BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO IMPROVE PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION OF BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

THE BANKING BILL 1986, RECENTLY ENDORSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY), WILL, AFTER IT HAS TAKEN THE USUAL LEGISLATIVE COURSE, REPLACE THE PRESENT BANKING ORDINANCE AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

IT WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON A DATE TO BE FIXED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND THERE MAY BE DIFFERENT DATES FOR DIFFERENT PROVISIONS.

THE BILL IS THE END PRODUCT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION AND EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH THE INDUSTRY OVER THE PAST YEAR. IT PROVIDES A UNIFIED APPROACH, AND A NUMBER OF PROVISIONS REPRESENT NEW DEPARTURES, IN SUPERVISING BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES - REFERRED TO AS +AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS+ IN THE BILL. HOWEVER, MANY PROVISIONS OF THE BILL ARE CARRIED OVER FROM THE CORRESPONDING ONES IN THE TWO PRESENT ORDINANCES.

THE MAIN NEW PROVISIONS, OR SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES TO EXISTING PROVISIONS, RELATE TO THE FOLLOWING AREAS: THE COMMISSIONER'S ROLE, AUDIT, REGULATION OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT, RESTRICTION ON LOANS, CAPITAL TO RISK ASSETS RATIO, AND LIQUIDITY RATIO.

THE COMMISSIONER'S ROLE

THE BILL SPELLS OUT EXPLICITLY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING'S FUNCTIONS, WHICH ARE PRINCIPALLY TO PROMOTE THE GENERAL STABILITY AND EFFECTIVE WORKING OF THE BANKING SYSTEM. HE IS RESPONSIBLE - AMONG OTHER DUTIES - FOR SUPERVISING COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE, ENSURING THAT AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS ARE OPERATED IN A RESPONSIBLE, HONEST AND BUSINESS-LIKE MANNER, AND PROMOTING AND ENCOURAGING PROPER STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND SOUND BUSINESS PRACTICES AMONGST THESE INSTITUTIONS.

THE COMMISSIONER'S DUTIES REFLECT A DIFFERENT EMPHASIS IN THE NEW APPROACH TO PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION - ONE THAT RELIES MORE ON HIS DISCRETION AND QUALITATIVE JUDGEMENT THAN PREVIOUSLY. SAFEGUARDS ARE PROVIDED THROUGHOUT THE BILL BY WAY OF APPEALS TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OR THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

ALSO COUNTERBALANCING THE COMMISSIONER'S EXPANDED ROLE ARE THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. HE IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL ON THE WORKING OF THE BILL AND THE ACTIVITIES OF HIS OFFICE DURING THE YEAR. THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL MAY PUBLISH THE REPORT.

IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNOR HAS THE POWER TO REQUEST A REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONER AT ANY TIME.

AUDIT

THE BILL EXTENDS THE AUDIT REQUIREMENTS PRESENTLY APPLICABLE TO BANKS TO DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES- IN PARTICULAR, THE COMMISSIONER WILL HAVE THE POWER TO APPOINT A SECOND AUDITOR FOR DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

TRIPARTITE MEETINGS ARE PROVIDED FOR BETWEEN THE BOARD OF AN INSTITUTION, ITS AUDITORS AND THE COMMISSIONER WHERE THE AFFAIRS OF THE INSTITUTION WARRANT SUCH A MEETING, AND A MEETING BETWEEN ANY TWO PARTIES CAN PROCEED NOTWITHSTANDING NON-ATTENDANCE BY THE THIRD.

THE BILL ALSO EMPOWERS THE COMMISSIONER TO DEAL WITH WEAKNESSES OR MISCONDUCT IN AUDITS, BY REFERRING TO THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS ANY CASES OF NEGLIGENCE OR SERIOUS MISCONDUCT BY THE AUDITORS OF AN AUTHORISED INSTITUTION.

REGULATION OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

THE BILL GIVES THE COMMISSIONER POWER OF CONTROL OVER SUBSTANTIAL OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG.

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AFTER COMMENCEMENT OF THE BILL, ANY PERSON WHO, INDIVIDUALLY OR IN CONCERT WITH OTHERS, ACQUIRES SHARES WHICH BRING HIS HOLDING TO 10 PER CENT OR MORE OF THE VOTING SHARES OF THE LOCAL INSTITUTION WILL NEED THE COMMISSIONER'S APPROVAL BEFORE HE IS ABLE TO EXERCISE HIS VOTING RIGHTS IN THOSE ACQUIRED SHARES.

AS A SANCTION TO SUPPORT THIS REQUIREMENT, ALL RESOLUTIONS OF THE INSTITUTION MADE IN RELIANCE UPON THE UNAPPROVED VOTING SHARES WHICH COULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN MADE WILL BE VOID, BUT THE RIGHT OF THIRD PARTIES DEALING WITH THE INSTITUTION IN GOOD FAITH WILL BE PROTECTED.

THE BILL ALSO REQUIRES THAT, AFTER COMMENCEMENT, ALL APPOINTMENTS TO DIRECTOR AND COMPANY SECRETARY POSTS OF A LOCAL INSTITUTION BE SUBJECT TO THE COMMISSIONER'S PRIOR APPROVAL.

THE COMMISSIONER'S CONTROL ALSO EXTENDS TO THE +CONTROLLER+ - A PERSON (INCLUDING A BODY CORPORATE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHOSE DIRECTIONS OR INSTRUCTIONS THE DIRECTORS OF AN INSTITUTION OR OF ITS HOLDING COMPANY ARE ACCUSTOMED TO ACT; OR A PERSON WHO CONTROLS MORE THAN 50 PER CENT OF THE VOTING SHARES OF THAT INSTITUTION OR OF ITS HOLDING COMPANY. ANY CONTROLLER WILL HAVE TO SEEK THE COMMISSIONER'S APPROVAL BEFORE CONTINUING TO GIVE DIRECTIONS OR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE INSTITUTION.

RESTRICTION ON LOANS

THE BILL PLACES NEW RESTRICTIONS - IN ADDITION TO THOSE IN THE PRESENT ORDINANCES - ON LOANS BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS. IT REQUIRES THAT AN INSTITUTION SHALL NOT, EXCEPT WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S APPROVAL, GRANT ANY ADVANCE, LOAN OR CREDIT FACILITY AGAINST THE SECURITY OF THE SHARES OF ITS HOLDING COMPANY (IF ANY) OR ANY SUBSIDIARY OF THE INSTITUTION OR SUCH HOLDING COMPANY.

IT ALSO PROVIDES THAT THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE, ISSUE DIRECTIONS TO AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS NOT TO ENGAGE IN SPECIFIED BUSINESS PRACTICES WHICH, IN THE COMMISSIONER'S OPINION, WILL OR MAY CAUSE THE SOUNDNESS OF THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF AN AUTHORISED INSTITUTION TO BE DEPENDENT UPON THE SOUNDNESS OF THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF A SINGLE PARTY.

/CAPITAL TO

CAPITAL TO RISK ASSETS RATIO

THE BILL INTRODUCES A NEW RATIO, A CAPITAL TO RISK ASSETS RATIO, TO APPLY TO ALL BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG. ALTHOUGH THE EXISTING LEGISLATION PRESCRIBES MINIMUM CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, SUCH REQUIREMENTS BEAR NO RELATIONSHIP TO THE AMOUNT AND RISKINESS OF THE ASSETS THEY SUPPORT. THE NEW RATIO IS DESIGNED TO REMEDY THAT DEFICIENCY.

THE CAPITAL TO RISK ASSETS RATIO HAS BEEN SET AT 5 PER CENT, BUT THE COMMISSIONER HAS THE POWER TO INCREASE THE RATIO FOR PARTICULAR INSTITUTIONS TO NOT MORE THAN 8 PER CENT IN THE CASE OF BANKS AND TO NOT MORE THAN 10 PER CENT IN THE CASE OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES. THE METHOD OF CALCULATION OF THE RATIO, TOGETHER WITH THE CAPITAL BASE AND THE RISK ASSETS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THAT CALCULATION, ARE CONTAINED IN THE THIRD SCHEDULE TO THE BILL.

A CONTRAVENTION OF THE RATIO IS NOT IN ITSELF AN OFFENCE, BUT IT IS AN OFFENCE TO FAIL TO REPORT THE CONTRAVENTION TO THE COMMISSIONER, OR TO TAKE REMEDIAL ACTION REQUIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR THE INSTITUTION TO COMPLY WITH THE RATIO.

THIS NEW REQUIREMENT ON CAPITAL ADEQUACY WILL NOT APPLY TO HONG KONG BRANCHES OF FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS BECAUSE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE, SUPERVISION OF A DEPOSIT-TAKING INSTITUTION'S CAPITAL ADEQUACY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AUTHORITIES IN THE PLACE WHERE THE INSTITUTION IS INCORPORATED.

SINCE THESE PROVISIONS PLACE A SUBSTANTIAL NEW REQUIREMENT ON THE INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED, IT IS PROPOSED THAT A LONG TRANSITIONAL PERIOD OF, SAY, TWO YEARS WOULD BE ALLOWED.

LIQUIDITY RATIO

THE BILL INTRODUCES NEW AND SIMPLIFIED LIQUIDITY REQUIREMENTS TO REPLACE THOSE IN THE EXISTING LEGISLATION. IT REQUIRES AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS TO MAINTAIN LIQUID ASSETS FOR ALL LIABILITIES MATURING OR CALLABLE WITHIN ONE MONTH, AT A RATIO OF NOT LESS THAN 25 PER CENT IN ANY CALENDAR MONTH. THE COMMISSIONER MAY IMPOSE ADDITIONAL LIQUIDITY REQUIREMENT ON ANY INSTITUTION AS NECESSARY.

THE METHOD OF CALCULATION OF THE RATIO, TOGETHER WITH THE LIABILITIES AND ASSETS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THAT CALCULATION, ARE CONTAINED IN THE FOURTH SCHEDULE TO THE BILL.

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THE SANCTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THIS REQUIREMENT LARGELY PARALLEL THOSE IN THE CASE OF THE CAPITAL TO RISK ASSETS RATIO, IN THAT A CONTRAVENTION OF THE RATIO IS NOT IN ITSELF AN OFFENCE, BUT FAILURE TO REPORT THE CONTRAVENTION, OR TO CARRY OUT REMEDIAL ACTION REQUIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER, IS AN OFFENCE.

TIMING

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MARCH 19, WHEN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL SPEAK ON IT BEFORE THE SECOND READING DEBATE IS ADJOURNED. A REASONABLY LONG PERIOD WOULD BE ALLOWED FOR DETAILED SCRUTINY OF THE BILL AND REPRESENTATION BY INTERESTED PARTIES, BEFORE RESUMPTION OF THE DEBATE IN THE COUNCIL IN MAY.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE BILL MAY BE SENT TO UMELCO, AT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, 8 JACKSON ROAD, HONG KONG, OR TO THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, AT ADMIRALTY CENTRE, TOWER 11, 24TH FLOOR, HARCOURT ROAD, HONG KONG.

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CHINESE JLG TEAM DUE SUNDAY
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THE CHINESE TEAM OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WILL BE ARRIVING IN HONG KONG BY FLIGHT CA 101, ETA 10.20 AM ON SUNDAY (MARCH 9).

THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BRITISH TEAM, DR DAVID WILSON, WILL MEET THE GROUP AT THE AIRPORT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITIES HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE ARRIVAL OF THE CHINESE TEAM.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE AIRPORT PRESS ROOM BEFORE 9.30 AM ON SUNDAY.

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DECEMBER RETAIL SALES SURVEY RESULTS OUT
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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN DECEMBER 1985, ESTIMATED AT \$6 478 MILLION, WAS 5 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN DECEMBER 1984, AND THE VOLUME WAS 3 PER CENT HIGHER, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARED WITH SALES IN DECEMBER 1984, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 15 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 9 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES ROSE BY 7 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 5 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO WENT UP BY 4 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 3 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

+OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 1 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. FUELS INCREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT SHOWED NO CHANGE IN SALES VOLUME. ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS, MOTOR VEHICLES AND CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES ROSE MODERATELY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. DEPARTMENT STORES HAD A SLIGHT INCREASE IN SALES VALUE BUT NO CHANGE IN SALES VOLUME.

COMPARING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1985 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1984, TOTAL RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 4 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS ROSE BY 14 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 7 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES WENT UP BY 5 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 4 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO RECORDED INCREASES OF 2 PER CENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF FUELS ROSE BY 2 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 1 PER CENT IN VOLUME. +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 2 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT NO CHANGE IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKET, MOTOR VEHICLES AND DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED MODERATELY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES HAD SLIGHT INCREASES IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME.

/WHEN COMPARED

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WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1985, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR DECEMBER 1985 INCREASED BY 11 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 10 PER CENT IN VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS RECORDED INCREASES OF 20 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 21 PER CENT IN VOLUME. +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ WENT UP BY 14 PER CENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 8 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. FUELS AND CONSUMER DURABLES EACH HAD SLIGHT INCREASES OF 2 PER CENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY AND THOSE OF SUPERMARKETS INCREASED MODERATELY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES HAD SLIGHT INCREASES IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME. ON THE OTHER HAND, RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES REMAINED UNCHANGED IN VALUE BUT DROPPED SLIGHTLY IN VOLUME.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL SALES FIGURE FOR NOVEMBER 1985 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR DECEMBER 1985.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 TAKEN AS 100. COMPARISONS OF DECEMBER 1985 RESULTS WITH THOSE OF NOVEMBER 1985 AND DECEMBER 1984 AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1985 WITH THOSE IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1984 ARE ALSO GIVEN. GRAPHS 1 AND 2 DEPICT THE INDEX MOVEMENTS OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES FROM JANUARY 1983 TO NOVEMBER 1985.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE DECEMBER 1985 SURVEY RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT \$1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL NO.: 3-7216024).

/TABLE 1 :

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for December 1985 (Provisional Figure)	=	EK\$6 478 million
for November 1985 (Revised Figure)	=	EK\$5 857 million

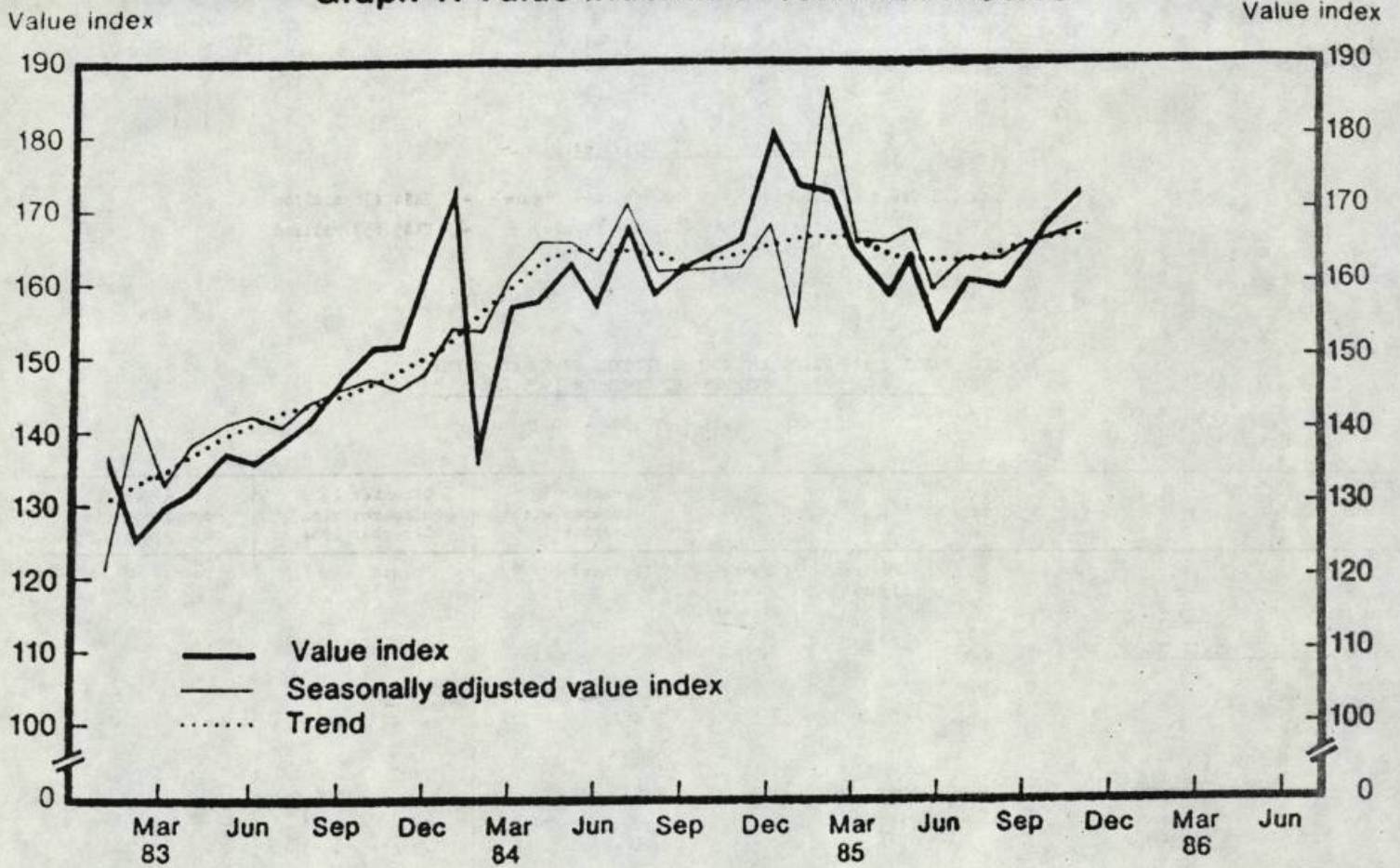
TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1985

(Monthly average of 1980 = 100)

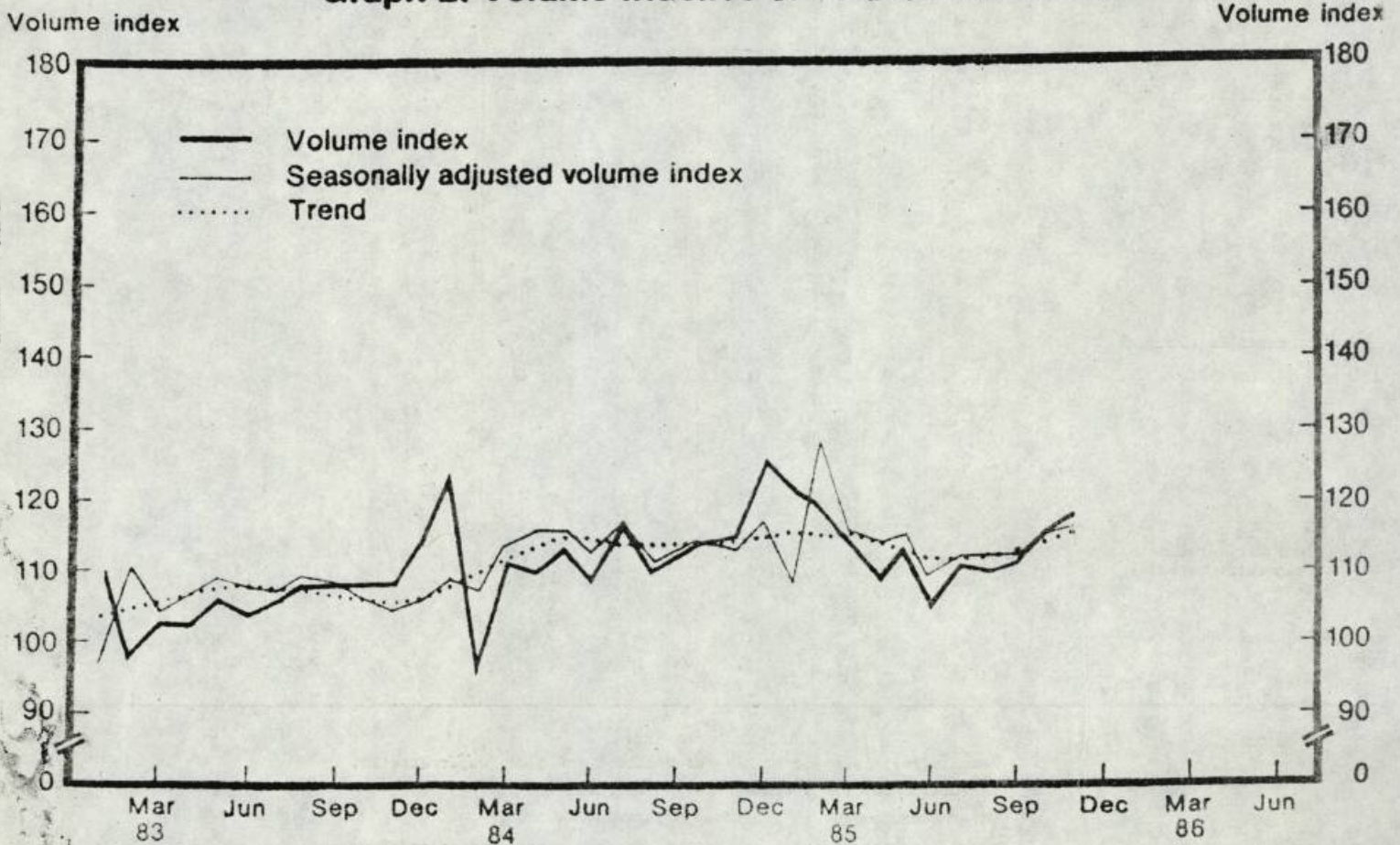
Item	Index of Retail Sales	November 1985	December 1985	December 1985 compared with November 1985		December 1985 compared with December 1984		Oct. - Dec. 1985 compared with Oct. - Dec. 1984	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES									
	Value	172	191	+ 18	+ 11	+ 10	+ 5	+ 7	+ 4
	Volume	118	130	+ 12	+ 10	+ 4	+ 3	+ 2	+ 2
(B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	Value	166	179	+ 13	+ 8	+ 7	+ 4	+ 4	+ 2
	Volume	109	117	+ 8	+ 8	+ 4	+ 3	+ 2	+ 2
Fuels	Value	188	192	+ 4	+ 2	+ 2	+ 1	+ 3	+ 2
	Volume	121	124	+ 3	+ 2	*	*	+ 1	+ 1
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	239	288	+ 48	+ 20	+ 37	+ 15	+ 32	+ 14
	Volume	140	171	+ 30	+ 21	+ 14	+ 9	+ 10	+ 7
Consumer durables	Value	155	159	+ 4	+ 2	+ 11	+ 7	+ 8	+ 5
	Volume	113	115	+ 2	+ 2	+ 5	+ 5	+ 5	+ 4
Other consumer goods	Value	170	194	+ 24	+ 14	+ 6	+ 3	+ 4	+ 2
	Volume	120	137	+ 17	+ 14	+ 2	+ 1	*	*
(C) BY SELECTED TRADES									
Supermarkets	Value	300	349	+ 49	+ 16	+ 47	+ 16	+ 39	+ 14
	Volume	181	210	+ 29	+ 16	+ 23	+ 12	+ 19	+ 11
Motor vehicles	Value	86	86	*	*	+ 8	+ 10	+ 8	+ 10
	Volume	50	49	- 1	- 2	+ 3	+ 6	+ 3	+ 6
Consumer durables other than motor vehicles	Value	202	209	+ 6	+ 3	+ 13	+ 6	+ 8	+ 4
	Volume	157	160	+ 3	+ 2	+ 7	+ 5	+ 6	+ 4
Department stores	Value	190	246	+ 57	+ 30	+ 4	+ 2	+ 14	+ 7
	Volume	134	174	+ 40	+ 30	*	*	+ 8	+ 6

- Notes :
1. "Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco" includes "supermarkets".
 2. "Consumer durables" includes "motor vehicles".
 3. "Other consumer goods" includes "department stores".
 4. Figures denoting changes are derived from the unrounded index figures.
 5. * denotes no change.

Graph 1: Value Indexes of Total Retail Sales



Graph 2: Volume Indexes of Total Retail Sales



Notes: (1) Monthly average of 1980 = 100.

(2) The seasonally adjusted value and volume indexes and Henderson trends are compiled using the X-11 variant seasonal adjustment program of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

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STOCK EXCHANGE DAY - APRIL 2

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS APPOINTED APRIL 2, 1986 AS THE DAY ON AND AFTER WHICH THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG LIMITED SHALL HAVE THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A STOCK MARKET IN HONG KONG, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES AND COMMODITIES TRADING, MR DEREK MURPHY, ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION (APPOINTED DAY) NOTICE 1986 IS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

UNDER SECTION 30 OF THE STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION ORDINANCE, THE EXISTING EXCHANGES ARE REQUIRED TO COMMENCE VOLUNTARY WINDING UP WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM THE +APPOINTED DAY+.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS WHICH WILL AUTOMATICALLY COME INTO OPERATION ON THE SAME DAY ARE PART III OF THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1985 (ORD. NO. 58 OF 1985), THE SECURITIES (SPECIFICATION OF APPROVED ASSETS, LIQUID ASSETS AND RANKING LIABILITIES) NOTICE 1986 (LN 7 OF 1986) AND THE SECURITIES (ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1986 (L.N. 38 OF 1986), WHICH ARE PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WITH FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DEALERS.

FROM APRIL 2, A REGISTERED DEALER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE AND AT ALL TIMES MAINTAIN IN HIS BUSINESS AS A DEALER A +NET CAPITAL+, THE AMOUNT OF WHICH WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER THE DEALER IS AN INDIVIDUAL (\$1 MILLION) OR A BODY CORPORATE (\$5 MILLION).

ADDITIONALLY, EACH REGISTERED DEALER IS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN A LIQUIDITY MARGIN OF NOT LESS THAN 10 PER CENT OF THE MINIMUM NET CAPITAL REQUIREMENT APPLICABLE.

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REDEVELOPMENT OF TEMPLE PROPERTIES PROPOSED

* * * *

A BILL EMPOWERING THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, THE TRUSTEE OF THE MAN MO TEMPLE FUND, TO REDEVELOP PROPERTIES UNDER THE FUND WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID SOME OF THE EXISTING PROPERTIES OF THE FUND WERE IN A DILAPIDATED STATE AND WERE EXTREMELY UNDER-UTILISED.

+TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE AREAS WHERE THE PROPERTIES ARE SITUATED AND TO MAXIMISE THEIR DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL, THE GROUP PROPOSES TO REDEVELOP PROPERTIES,+ HE SAID.

/THE PROPOSED

THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME, COVERING AN AREA OF 1 120 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISES A 31-STOREY RESIDENTIAL TOWER, SHOPS AND PARKING SPACES AT THE GROUND FLOOR LEVEL AND A DAY-CARE CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY AND COMMERCIAL UNITS IN THE LOWER GROUND FLOORS.

UNDER PROVISIONS IN THE BILL, THE GROUP WOULD ALSO BE EMPOWERED TO RAISE FUNDS ON BEHALF OF THE MAN MO TEMPLE FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

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ZONING PLAN TO INCLUDE RECLAIMED HUNG HOM LAND
* * * * *

ALMOST 40 HECTARES OF LAND TO BE RECLAIMED AT HUNG HOM BAY IS TO BE INCORPORATED IN THE HUNG HOM OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD EXPLAINED TODAY THAT THE MAJOR AMENDMENT WAS TO BRING UNDER STATUTORY PLANNING CONTROL THE FUTURE USE OF THE LAND TO BE RECLAIMED AT HUNG HOM BAY.

THE PROPOSED HUNG HOM BAY RECLAMATION THAT WOULD PRODUCE 39 HECTARES OF LAND WOULD BE COMPLETED IN TWO PHASES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID. PHASE 1 COMPRISING ABOUT 15 HECTARES OF LAND WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION'S FREIGHT HANDLING FACILITIES. RECLAMATION WORK WOULD START LATER THIS YEAR.

+THE KCRC'S CONSULTANT IS STUDYING THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE RECLAMATION AREA, PART OF WHICH IS INTENDED TO REDRESS THE EXISTING SHORTAGE OF GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE IN HUNG HOM, INCLUDING ANY FUTURE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS,+ HE SAID.

+IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC NETWORK AND THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING THE PROPOSED HUNG HOM BYPASS COULD ALSO BE UNDERTAKEN,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE RECLAIMED AREA WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL IN THE FORM OF A MASTER LAYOUT PLAN.

OTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE PLAN INVOLVE REZONING OF THE TAI WAN SHAN SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX TO GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY TO REFLECT THE ACTUAL USE OF THE SITE= THE INCLUSION OF A SMALL OPEN SPACE NORTH OF CHEONG WAN ROAD FOR A ROAD PROJECT IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN GILLIES AVENUE, AND INCORPORATING THE PROPOSED ELEVATED ROAD AT MAN YUE STREET.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1986

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ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE AMENDMENT PLAN MAY WRITE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O LANDS DEPARTMENT, FOURTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG BEFORE MARCH 27, 1986.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT PLAN ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SURVEY DIVISION, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 5TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE KOWLOON MAP AND PLAN SALES SECTIONS AT 382 NATHAN ROAD AT \$10 FOR AN UNCOLOURED COPY, AND \$60 FOR A COLOURED COPY.

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DISPLAY PROFESSIONALISM CALL TO GRADUATING FIREMEN
* * * *

GRADUATES OF THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL WERE ASKED TODAY (FRIDAY) TO DISPLAY PROFESSIONALISM AND TO GUARD THE GOOD REPUTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE PASSING-OUT CEREMONY OF SIX OFFICERS AND 42 FIREMEN, THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER OF HONG KONG COMMAND, MR BRIAN FENDER, SAID THAT +THE REPUTATION OF THE HONG KONG FIRE SERVICES IS HIGH AND ITS PROFESSIONALISM RESPECTED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

+IT IS BY THE MAINTENANCE OF SUCH STANDARDS THAT WE ARE BEST ABLE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.+

MR FENDER POINTED OUT THAT A FIREMAN'S WORK WAS HARD AND DANGEROUS AT TIMES BUT THEY WERE COMPENSATED BY CAMARADERIE FOSTERED IN THE FIELD OF ACTION.

+IT IS A VERY REWARDING PROFESSION, FOR THERE IS NOTHING IN LIFE MORE SATISFYING THAN BEING ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE IN TIME OF NEED AND WHEN THEY ARE UNABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES,+ HE SAID.

MR FENDER LATER REVIEWED A PARADE OF 89 RECRUITS AND PRESENTED TROPHIES TO MR LEUNG WAI-HUNG AND MR NG CHAU-HUNG, THE TWO TOP GRADUATES.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1986

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AMBULANCEMEN GET INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATES
* * * * *

THIRTY AMBULANCE OFFICERS TODAY RECEIVED AMBULANCE AID INSTRUCTORS CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY THE UK NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, AFTER COMPLETING TWO WEEKS' TRAINING IN HONG KONG.

THE COURSE, COMMISSIONED LOCALLY FOR THE FIRST TIME BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WAS AIMED AT TEACHING AMBULANCE OFFICERS TO PREPARE TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR AMBULANCEMEN. IT WAS DIRECTED BY MR ROBERT LEA, MEMBER OF THE UK NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE TRAINING AUTHORITY, ON SECONDMENT TO HONG KONG. MR LEA HAD SERVED AS REGIONAL TRAINING OFFICER WITH WEST YORKSHIRE REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY FOR 35 YEARS.

THE COURSE HAD PREVIOUSLY TO BE TAKEN IN THE UK.

AT TODAY'S PRESENTATION, MR LEA SAID THAT THE AMBULANCE SERVICES AND TRAINING IN HONG KONG WERE BOTH OF HIGH STANDARD, AND MOST TRAINEES HAD PASSED THE COURSE TESTS WITH FLYING COLOURS. +

THE ACTING CHIEF AMBULANCE OFFICER, MR PANG TAK-SAM, WHO PRESENTED THE CERTIFICATES, COMMENDED THE GRADUATES FOR THEIR GOOD WORK.

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CONTRACTORS SOUGHT FOR CHIMNEY WORK
* * *

APPLICATIONS ARE BEING INVITED FROM CONTRACTORS FOR INCLUSION IN A LIST OF SPECIALISTS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING SERVICES FOR CONCRETE CHIMNEY REPAIR AND DEMOLITION WORK.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS COMPILING THE LIST, SAID CONTRACTORS WITH COMPETENCE IN THE TWO FIELDS SHOULD ALSO SUBMIT DETAILS OF THEIR RELEVANT EXPERIENCE.

REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE SURVEYOR, 34TH FLOOR, SUN HUNG KAI CENTRE, HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, BEFORE MARCH 27.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1986

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TEMPORARY DRAINAGE CHANNEL PLANNED
* * * * *

THE FORESHORE AND SEABED OUTSIDE THE TIN SHUI WAI BUND IS TO BE DREDGED TO FORM A TEMPORARY DRAINAGE CHANNEL AND DREDGED MATERIAL WILL BE USED TO FILL IN DISUSED PONDS IN THE AREA.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN JANUARY 1987 AND BE COMPLETED THREE YEARS LATER.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST GAZETTE, AND ANY PERSON WISHING TO OBJECT TO THE WORKS SHOULD WRITE TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS BEFORE MAY 6.

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PRINTING INDUSTRY MANPOWER BEING SURVEYED
* * *

A SURVEY WILL BE CARRIED OUT BETWEEN MARCH 11 AND 19 TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON MANPOWER AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRINTING INDUSTRY.

IT WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE PRINTING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, WITH THE HELP OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

CHAIRMAN OF THE TRAINING BOARD, MR ALEX WU, URGED EMPLOYERS COVERED IN THE SURVEY TO COOPERATE BECAUSE THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD BE OF IMPORTANCE FOR FORMULATING TRAINING PLANS FOR THE INDUSTRY.

MR WU STRESSED ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WOULD BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ALL ESTABLISHMENTS COVERED IN THE SURVEY.

DURING THE SURVEY PERIOD, OFFICERS FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CALL AT THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO HELP EMPLOYERS COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1986

- 16 -

REPRESENTATIVE TO BE ELECTED AT DB MEETING
* * * *

KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL ELECT A BOARD MEMBER TO REPRESENT THEM ON THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING ON MONDAY (MARCH 10).

BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE DRAFT DISTRICT BOARD BUDGET AND STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF DISTRICT BOARD COMMITTEES FOR 1986-87. THEY WILL ALSO REVIEW THE DISTRICT BOARD STANDING ORDERS.

MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE SETTING UP OF A HALF-WAY HOUSE IN THE SHEK LEI ESTATE EXTENSION, SUPPLEMENTARY SITES FOR THE EXTENDED REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, CONTROL OF POLLUTION CAUSED BY ANIMAL WASTES AND THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY HALLS IN THE DISTRICT.

LOCAL ISSUES TO BE RAISED INCLUDE AIR POLLUTION, SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, SAFETY ASPECTS OF RECREATIONAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, WATER SUPPLY PROBLEMS AT SHEK LEI HANG VILLAGE, REHOUSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOME TENANTS IN KWAI FONG AND THE PROVISION OF LEGAL ADVICE BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2.30 PM ON MONDAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING (NEXT TO KWAI HING MTR STATION), 166-174 HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG.

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ANNUAL EXHUMATIONS DUE
* * * *

ALL HUMAN REMAINS BURIED IN THE GRAVES OF FOUR PUBLIC CEMETERIES IN THE NON-URBAN AREAS IN 1979 ARE NOW DUE FOR EXHUMATION, THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

A TOTAL OF 11 116 GRAVES AT THE CHEUNG CHAU CEMETERY, SANDY RIDGE CEMETERY, SANDY RIDGE URN CEMETERY AND WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS YEAR'S EXHUMATIONS, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF HUMAN REMAINS FROM THE FOUR PUBLIC CEMETERIES IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

/THE ANNUAL

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THE ANNUAL RECOVERY OF GRAVE SPACES FROM PUBLIC CEMETERIES FOR RE-USE IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS BURIED IN THESE GRAVES ARE ADVISED TO PROCEED WITH THE EXHUMATION BEFORE MAY 5.

THEY SHOULD APPLY FOR EXHUMATION PERMITS AT THE RSD'S CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA OFFICE AT 6 CHEONG HANG ROAD, HUNG HOM, KOWLOON.

THE EXHUMED REMAINS CAN BE RE-BURIED IN THE URN SECTION OF PUBLIC CEMETERIES, OR AFTER CREMATION, THE ASHES MAY BE DEPOSITED AT A GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE COLUMBARIUM OR KEPT AT HOME.

REMAINS NOT REMOVED AFTER THE EXPIRY DATE WILL BE EXHUMED AND CREMATED AT THE SANDY RIDGE URN CEMETERY OR OTHER PUBLIC URN CEMETERY, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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SEMINAR STAGED FOR WOMEN IN WAN CHAI
* * * *

ABOUT 100 WOMEN FROM VARIOUS LOCAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS IN WAN CHAI DISTRICT WILL ATTEND A SEMINAR ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE SEMINAR IS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD'S WORKING GROUP FOR THE CONCERN OF PORNOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES IN WAN CHAI.

GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE DR LAM MAN-PING, A LECTURER AT THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG. SHE WILL SPEAK ON CHILD PSYCHOLOGY WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO READING HABITS AND THE INFLUENCE OF PORNOGRAPHIC PUBLICATIONS. THE TALK WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN OPEN DISCUSSION.

THE SEMINAR IS AIMED AT AROUSING PARTICIPANTS' AWARENESS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION AND TO ENCOURAGE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT THE RUBY RESTAURANT IN CAUSEWAY BAY AT 4 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1986

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CHILDREN INVITED TO SHOW DRAWING SKILLS
* * * *

CHILDREN IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN ARE INVITED TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR TALENT AT AN OPEN AIR DRAWING COMPETITION TO BE HELD AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT ON SUNDAY (MARCH 9) AFTERNOON.

WITH THE THEME OF +KNOWING OUR CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT+, THE COMPETITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (CENTRAL AND WESTERN), AND IS ASSISTED BY SPOTLIGHT CHILDREN'S EDUCATION CENTRE WITH THE AIM OF ENHANCING CHILDREN'S INTEREST IN ART AND CULTURE.

THE EVENT IS ALSO SPONSORED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD, THE LIU CHONG HING BANK AND THE TOM LEE MUSIC COMPANY LIMITED.

IT WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS WITH THE JUNIOR CLASS FOR CHILDREN AGED FOUR TO NINE AND A HIGHER CLASS FOR THOSE AGED BETWEEN TEN AND 15.

CHILDREN TAKING PART SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR WATER COLOUR OR CRAYON AND ARRIVE AT THE REGISTRATION BOOTH AT THE PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT BEFORE 1 PM.

PAPER WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE SPOT AND PARTICIPANTS MUST FINISH THEIR DRAWING BEFORE 4 PM. AN ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME WILL BE STAGED FOR CHILDREN AFTER THE COMPETITION.

OFFICIATING AT THE PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM KAM-KWONG; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR VINCENT KO; LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR LIU LIT-FOR; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (CENTRAL AND WESTERN), MR WU CHOR-NAM; AND THE MANAGER OF THE SPOTLIGHT CHILDREN'S EDUCATION CENTRE, MISS SHELLEY YEUNG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CHILDREN DRAWING COMPETITION.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1986

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YOUTH MUSIC FINALS TO BE HELD

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THE CHINESE AND WESTERN MUSIC FINALS OF THE 1986 HONG KONG YOUNG MUSICIANS' AWARDS WILL TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 15 AND 16 AT 8 PM AT THE SHOUSON THEATRE, ARTS CENTRE.

THE PRELIMINARIES AND THE SEMI-FINALS WERE HELD IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR AND IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

THE CONTEST IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND THE COMPOSERS AND AUTHORS SOCIETY OF HONG KONG.

THE MAIN AIMS OF THE AWARDS ARE TO RAISE THE STANDARDS OF COMPOSING AND PERFORMING SERIOUS MUSIC AMONG YOUNG AMATEUR MUSICIANS AND TO PROMOTE MUSIC APPRECIATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUSIC OFFICE SAID TODAY THE CONTEST PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG AMATEUR MUSICIANS TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS AND TALENTS THROUGH OPEN COMPETITION.

THE EVENT HAD UNCOVERED A NUMBER OF YOUNG MUSICIANS AND COMPOSERS OVER THE YEARS.

THE COMPOSERS AND AUTHORS SOCIETY OF HONG KONG HAS DONATED CASH PRIZES TOTALLING \$40 000 FOR THE WINNERS OF THE AWARDS. THE WINNER IN EACH OF THE FOUR CATEGORIES WILL RECEIVE \$6 000 WHILE THE FIRST RUNNER UP WILL GET \$3 000 AND THE SECOND \$1 000.

THE COMPOSITIONS AND PERFORMANCES OF THE FINALISTS WILL BE JUDGED BY A PANEL OF MUSICIANS.

TICKETS FOR THE FINALS AT \$10 EACH ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE HONG KONG MUSIC CENTRE (5-283257) AND THE YAU MA TEI MUSIC CENTRE (3-7226240).

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DETAILS OF NORTH DISTRICT FUN DAY

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THE FIRST NORTH DISTRICT BOARD FUN DAY TO PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 16.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR CHEUNG KAN-KWAI, AND THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR RAYMOND PANG, WILL ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 11 AM ON MONDAY (MARCH 10) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, FANLING ROUNDABOUT, FANLING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1986

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CHARITY WALK CHEQUE PRESENTATION

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HELPING HAND, A LOCAL CHARITABLE ORGANISATION WHICH RUNS NINE HOMES FOR THE AGED, TODAY (FRIDAY) RECEIVED A CHEQUE FOR \$32 000 AS DONATION RAISED DURING A RECENT ARMY CHARITY WALK.

CALLED +EXERCISE TRAILWALKER+, THE EVENT WAS ORGANISED BY THE QUEEN'S GURKHA SIGNALS AND WAS HELD IN NOVEMBER ALONG THE RUGGED 100-KILOMETRE MACLEHOSE TRAIL.

A TOTAL OF \$98 121.50 WAS RAISED IN THE SPONSORED WALK BY 53 TEAMS FROM VARIOUS SERVICE UNITS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

OF THE TOTAL, MORE THAN \$40 000 WAS COLLECTED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) WHICH WAS THE MOST SPONSORED TEAM.

YUEN LONG, SHEUNG SHUI TRAFFIC CHANGES

* * * * *

A MINI-ROUNDAABOUT AT THE JUNCTION OF FAIRVIEW PARK BOULEVARD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD IN YUEN LONG WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM 11 AM ON MONDAY (MARCH 10) TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW.

WITH EFFECT FROM 10 AM ON THE SAME DAY, THE SPEED LIMIT OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD, FROM A POINT ABOUT 200 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH FAIRVIEW PARK BOULEVARD TO A POINT ABOUT 680 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION, WILL BE REDUCED FROM THE EXISTING 70 KILOMETRES PER HOUR TO 50 KILOMETRES PER HOUR.

MEANWHILE, BETWEEN 12.30 AM AND 4 AM ON MONDAY, CASTLE PEAK ROAD WEST OF LOK MA CHAU ROAD IN YUEN LONG WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD PROJECT.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE FAN KAM ROAD AND KAM TIN ROAD FOR JOURNEYS BETWEEN SHEUNG SHUI AND YUEN LONG.

TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS IN JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, SHEUNG SHUI, A SECTION OF JOCKEY CLUB ROAD BETWEEN SAN FUNG AVENUE AND FUNG KAI SECONDARY SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON MARCH 10 FOR FOUR MONTHS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO A NEW ROAD PARALLEL TO THE CLOSED SECTION OF JOCKEY CLUB ROAD.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN – SUPPLEMENT

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1986

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FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1986

- 1 -

OVERALL VOTER TURNOUT 'VERY SATISFACTORY' - LIAO
* * * * *

THE OVERALL TURNOUT OF 362 725 VOTERS, OR 27 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ELECTORATE, AT YESTERDAY'S URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS WAS DESCRIBED AS +VERY SATISFACTORY+ BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE PRESS CENTRE OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS LATE LAST (THURSDAY) NIGHT, MR LIAO SAID ONE MUST CONSIDER THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST ELECTION FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THAT THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES WAS MUCH LESS THAN THAT OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS LAST YEAR.

THERE WERE 79 CANDIDATES TAKING PART IN YESTERDAY'S ELECTIONS AS COMPARED WITH 501 IN LAST YEAR'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, HE NOTED.

HE SAID THE RESULTS FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGING AS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF 218 837 VOTES, OR 23.2 PER CENT, HAD ALMOST DOUBLED THE FIGURE OF 127 303 IN 1983.

THIS WAS A REMARKABLE INCREASE ALTHOUGH IT ONLY REPRESENTED A SMALL RISE IN PERCENTAGE POINT AS COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR'S 22.4 PER CENT.

AS REGARDS THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, MR LIAO SAID THE 35.9 PER CENT TURNOUT WAS ALMOST AS GOOD AS LAST YEAR'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS OF 37.5 PER CENT.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE LARGER TURNOUT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR LIAO SAID THE TREND SHOWED THAT THE RESPONSE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS MORE ENTHUSIASTIC WHEN COMPARED WITH THE URBAN AREAS.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THIS WAS BECAUSE +EVERYBODY KNOWS EVERYONE ELSE MUCH BETTER+ IN THE RURAL AREAS AND IN THE NEW TOWNS WHILE IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS IN THE URBAN AREAS, THE CHANCE OF GETTING TO KNOW ONE'S NEIGHBOUR WAS MUCH LESS.

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LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES
* * * *

<u>URBAN COUNCIL</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>INCUMBENT UC/DB MEMBER (E/A)</u>
CENTRAL AND WESTERN	CHOW WAI-KEUNG	M	DB MEMBER (E)
WAN CHAI	HILTON CHEONG-LEEN	M	UC MEMBER (E)
NORTH POINT	MAN SAI-CHEONG	M	-
SHAU KEI WAN	CHEUNG WAI-PING	F	-
SOUTHERN	CHAN YUEK-SUT	M	UC MEMBER (E)
KOWLOON CITY WEST	CHAN CHI-KWAN, PETER	M	UC MEMBER (E)
KOWLOON CITY EAST (UNCONTESTED)	PAO PING-WING	M	UC MEMBER (E)
KWUN TONG WEST	ELSIE TU	F	UC MEMBER (E)
KWUN TONG EAST	LAM CHAK-PIU	M	UC MEMBER (E)
MONG KOK	CHAN KWOK-MING	M	DB MEMBER (E)
SHAM SHUI PO EAST	FUNG KIN-KEE	M	UC MEMBER (E)
SHAM SHUI PO WEST	LEE CHIK-YUET	M	UC MEMBER (E)
WONG TAI SIN SOUTH	FOK PUI-YEE	F	-
WONG TAI SIN NORTH	YEUNG LAI-YIN, CECILIA	F	UC MEMBER (E)
YAU MA TEI	KWAN LIM-HO	M	UC MEMBER (E)
<u>REGIONAL COUNCIL</u>			
ISLANDS	KWONG PING-YAU	M	-
NORTH	TANG KWOK-YUNG	M	DB MEMBER (E)

SAI KUNG	WONG SHUI-SANG	M	-
SHA TIN EAST	CHEUNG CHI-YUEN	M	DB MEMBER (E)
SHA TIN WEST	LAU KONG-WAH	M	DB MEMBER (E)
TAI PO	LAI KAM-CHEUNG, MICHAEL	M	DB MEMBER (A)
TSUEN WAN	CHAN WAI-YIP, ALBERT	M	DB MEMBER (E)
TUEN MUN EAST	TSANG KWONG-YUEN	M	-
TUEN MUN WEST	NG MING-YUM	M	DB MEMBER (E)
YUEN LONG	TANG KAM-FAT	M	-
KWAI CHUNG EAST	LEE WING-TAT	M	DB MEMBER (E)
KWAI CHUNG WEST AND TSING YI (UNCONTESTED)	WONG MAN-TAI, JAMES	M	-

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+ELECTIONS HAVE DIRECT BEARING ON PEOPLE'S LIVES+
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THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS GIVE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE AT THE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS A VERY DIRECT BEARING ON PEOPLE'S LIVES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID THIS EVENING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE CHARITY BALL OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, SIR EDWARD SAID: +A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE TURNED OUT, TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT, AND THERE HAS BEEN A WIDE RANGE OF CANDIDATES, AND THE VOTING PROCESS HAS BEEN FAIR AND ORDERLY AND EFFICIENT. AND I THINK ALL IN ALL THAT MEANS A VERY SATISFACTORY RESULT.+

ASKED WHETHER HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE 24 PER CENT TURNOUT RATE UP TILL 9.30 PM, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT RATHER THAN GETTING FIXED ON PERCENTAGES, +WE GOT TO LOOK AT THE SITUATION AS A WHOLE+.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION WHETHER THE REACTION BY VOTERS TODAY BACKED THE CALL FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS, SIR EDWARD SAID WE MUST TAKE EACH SET OF ELECTIONS AS THEY CAME.

+THIS IS FOR A PARTICULAR LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT. BUT I THINK IT HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN A SUCCESSFUL ELECTION DAY,+ HE SAID.

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'HK PEOPLE REALISING THEY HAVE A VOICE'

* * * *

THE LARGE NUMBER OF VOTERS WHO TURNED UP IN TODAY'S ELECTIONS SHOWED THAT THERE WAS AN INCREASING INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IN GOVERNMENT MATTERS, REALISING THAT THEY HAD A VOICE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS WHEN TOURING THE PRESS CENTRE IN THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS, SIR DAVID NOTED THAT THE SLOGAN FOR LAST YEAR'S ELECTIONS WAS '+A VOICE IS A VOTE+'.

+I THINK THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE REALISING THAT THEY DO HAVE A VOICE,+ HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE ELECTIONS HAD BEEN GOING ON BETTER THAN ONE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED, NOTING THAT ONE SHOULD NOT LOOK AT THE PERCENTAGE OF VOTER TURNOUT, BUT THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO CAME-OUT AND VOTED TODAY.

HE RECALLED THAT ONLY ABOUT 8 000 VOTERS CAST THEIR VOTES DURING THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS SEVERAL YEARS AGO. BUT SO FAR, WITH ABOUT TWO HOURS BEFORE POLLING CLOSED, MORE THAN 200 000 PEOPLE HAD CAST THEIR BALLOTS IN TODAY'S ELECTIONS.

+SO THIS IS A TREMENDOUS CHANGE FROM THE PATTERN OF THE PAST, AND THAT IS, I THINK, WHAT ONE SHOULD BE LOOKING AT RATHER THAN THE PERCENTAGE,+ HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN VERY KEEN INTEREST IN SOME DISTRICTS AMONG THE VOTERS, NOTING THAT MORE THAN 30 PER CENT OF THE VOTERS IN THESE AREAS HAD COME OUT TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS.

AS ELECTIONS WERE COMPARATIVELY NEW IN HONG KONG, SIR DAVID SAID SO FAR HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS.

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VOTER TURNOUT EXPECTED TO PICK UP - CS

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID THE VOTER TURNOUT SO FAR IN TODAY'S URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS HAD BEEN EXTREMELY ENCOURAGING AND THAT HE HOPED ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF THE ELECTORATE WOULD CAST THEIR VOTES AT THE END OF THE DAY.

+I AM SURE THE TURNOUT LATER THIS EVENING WHEN PEOPLE GET HOME FROM WORK WILL BE VERY GOOD,+ HE SAID.

/+I HOPE

+I HOPE THAT WHEN ELECTORS HAVE HAD TIME TO SETTLE DOWN AFTER WORK AND WHEN THEY FINISH THEIR DINNER, THEY WILL COME OUT IN NUMBERS TO VOTE,+ HE ADDED.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS DURING VISITS TO POLLING STATIONS IN YUEN LONG AND NORTH POINT, SIR DAVID SAID THE TURNOUT AT THE POLLS SHOWED AN INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROCESSES OF DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S SYSTEM.

+TO AN EXTENT, I THINK IT WILL AFFECT HOW WE THINK AND PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT TWICE AS MANY PEOPLE HAD VOTED IN THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS THIS TIME THAN IN THE 1983 ELECTIONS.

+THIS MEANS THAT MORE PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN THESE ELECTIONS THIS TIME THAN THE LAST TIME,+ HE SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO COMMENDED VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, THE CANDIDATES AND THE MEDIA FOR THE TREMENDOUS EFFORTS IN PUBLICISING THE ELECTIONS.

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SIR DAVID OPTIMISTIC ABOUT VOTER TURNOUT
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, TODAY EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ABOUT THE VOTER TURNOUT IN THE FIRST EVER REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTION.

CASTING HIS BALLOT IN THE KWONG FUK COMMUNITY HALL POLLING STATION IN TAI PO, SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL HAD A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SERVICES IN THE NON-URBAN AREAS AND THAT THERE WAS A GROWING AWARENESS AMONG THE PEOPLE THAT THEY COULD DO THEIR PART BY CASTING THEIR VOTES.

+THE NEW TERRITORIES IS A VERY FAST-GROWING REGION, AND ITS URBAN CENTRES NEED THE ADVICE OF THE CITIZENS IN THEIR MANAGEMENT.

+SHA TIN HAS NEARLY 300 000 PEOPLE AND TUEN MUN HAS 250 000 PEOPLE, AND WE REALLY NEED THE ADVICE AND SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE IN RUNNING THOSE LARGE AREAS,+ SIR DAVID SAID.

+IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE RUNNING OF THEIR COMMUNITY, AND I HOPE THERE WOULD BE A GOOD TURNOUT TODAY,+ HE ADDED.

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FINE DAY SHOULD HELP TURNOUT - LIAO
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THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, THIS MORNING EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE VOTER TURNOUT IN TODAY'S URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS WOULD BE AT LEAST AS GOOD AS IN PREVIOUS ELECTIONS.

HE MADE THE COMMENT AFTER CASTING THE FIRST BALLOT IN THE NEW METHOD COLLEGE POLLING STATION IN KOWLOON CITY, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE.

+THE WEATHER IS FINE TODAY AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE VOTER TURNOUT THIS TIME WILL BE AT LEAST AS GOOD AS IN PREVIOUS ELECTIONS AS PREPARATION WORK WAS DONE PROPERLY AND ADEQUATELY. I WOULD LIKE TO URGE ALL REGISTERED VOTERS TO CAST THEIR VOTES,+ HE SAID.

ASKED HOW HE CHOSE THE PERSON HE VOTED FOR, MR LIAO SAID:
+IT'S NOT AN EASY DECISION AS ALL FOUR CANDIDATES ARE VERY ACTIVE IN THEIR ELECTION CAMPAIGNS AND KEEN TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY. BUT, OF COURSE, I CHOSE THE ONE WHOM IN MY OPINION WOULD BE BEST SUITED TO WORK FOR THE INTEREST OF MY DISTRICT.+

HE ADDED THAT HE HAD READ ALL THE PLATFORMS OF THE CANDIDATES HE RECEIVED THROUGH THE POST AS WELL AS THOSE PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS.

A TOTAL OF 79 CANDIDATES ARE CONTESTING THE 27 SEATS - 15 IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AND 12 IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

THERE ARE TWO UNCONTESTED CONSTITUENCIES, ONE IN KOWLOON CITY EAST, WON BY MR PAO PING-WING, AND ANOTHER IN KWAI CHUNG WEST AND TSING YI, WON BY MR WONG MAN-TAI.

THERE ARE MORE THAN 1.34 MILLION ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN BOTH THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

THE 302 POLLING STATIONS IN THE 19 DISTRICTS OPENED AT 7.30 AM AND WILL REMAIN OPEN TILL 10.30 PM.

'MORNING VOTER TURNOUT SATISFACTORY'

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THE MORNING VOTER TURNOUT IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS HAD BEEN SATISFACTORY, SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THAT COMPARED TO THE 1983 URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS, IN THE FIRST FIVE HOURS OF VOTING THE NUMBER OF ELECTORS TURNING UP AT THE POLLS HAD DOUBLED.

+THIS IS INDEED ENCOURAGING AND I HOPE MORE ELECTORS WILL VOTE LATER IN THE DAY,+ HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID THAT UP TILL 12.30 PM, A TOTAL OF 85 223 ELECTORS HAD CAST THEIR VOTES IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

+THIS REPRESENTED 6.3 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS BRIEFING, MR CHAU SAID THE HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT RATE TERRITORY-WIDE WAS IN KWUN TONG WEST, WHERE 5 449 VOTERS, OR 6.5 PER CENT OF THE DISTRICT'S ELECTORATE, CAST THEIR BALLOTS. IT WAS ALSO THE HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT IN THE URBAN AREAS.

THE HIGHEST TURNOUT RATE IN PERCENTAGE TERMS WAS IN THE ISLANDS DISTRICT WHICH WAS 17.2 PER CENT.

FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL, 47 533 VOTERS CAST THEIR BALLOTS, REPRESENTING A TURNOUT RATE OF FIVE PER CENT, WHILE IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA, 37 690 ELECTORS VOTED, REPRESENTING NINE PER CENT OF THE REGION'S ELECTORATE.

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LIAO EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH TURNOUT

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THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER THE VOTER TURNOUT 11 HOURS INTO THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

MR LIAO SAID THAT AT 6.30 PM, THE VOTER TURNOUT WAS 11.7 PER CENT IN THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION, COMPARED TO 10 PER CENT AT THE SAME TIME IN 1983. WHILE IN ABSOLUTE NUMBERS, IT WAS UP FROM 57 126 TO 110 296 VOTES CAST.

/THE TOTAL

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION IN 1983 WAS 568 000, COMPARED TO 944 844 AT PRESENT.

+AS FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, THERE'S NO BASIS FOR COMPARISON SINCE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME. BUT COMPARED TO THE VOTER TURNOUT IN THE CURRENT URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION, IT IS CONSISTENTLY BETTER IN PERCENTAGE TERMS,+ HE ADDED.

MR LIAO CAUTIONED AGAINST MAKING A DEFINITE FORECAST OF THE ULTIMATE NUMBER OF VOTERS CASTING THEIR BALLOTS, SAYING THAT VOTING TRENDS IN RECENT YEARS SHOWED MANY WOULD TURN UP TO CAST THEIR VOTES AFTER WORK AND DINNER.

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DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY VISITS POLLING STATIONS * * * * *

THE DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY, MR ALAN SCOTT, TODAY VISITED ONE OF THE OUTLYING POLLING STATIONS TO SEE HOW VOTING ACTIVITIES WERE BEING CONDUCTED IN THE FIRST-EVER ELECTION TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

ARRIVING BY HELICOPTER AT CHEUNG CHAU SHORTLY AFTER NOON, MR SCOTT SPOKE TO THE CANDIDATES, VOTERS AND POLLING STAFF AT THE POLLING STATION AT KWOK MAN SCHOOL.

MR SCOTT TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO URGE ALL REGISTERED ELECTORS ON CHEUNG CHAU AND ELSEWHERE IN THE ISLANDS DISTRICT TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE BEST PERSON TO SERVE THEM ON THE NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL.

LATER IN THE DAY, MR SCOTT WILL TOUR POLLING STATIONS IN KOWLOON CITY AND SHA TIN BEFORE MAKING HIS LAST STOP AT A STATION IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT AROUND 9.30 PM.

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