



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1985

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TUESDAY MEETINGS THAT DECIDE HONG KONG POLICY

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EVERY TUESDAY, IN A SMALL ROOM IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, A NUMBER OF PEOPLE GATHER TO MAKE SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS IN HONG KONG.

LED BY THE GOVERNOR, THE GROUP, COMPRISING BOTH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PEOPLE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY, DISCUSS A WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS.

THEY MAY TALK ABOUT -- AS THEY INVARIABLY DO -- PROPOSED LEGISLATION. THEY MAY CONFER AND ADVISE ABOUT THE REFUGEE PROBLEM AND, PERHAPS, ABOUT THE URGENT DECISION THAT HAS TO BE TAKEN TO DEAL WITH IT. OR, THEY MAY PONDER TRADE MATTERS, THE STATE OF THE HONG KONG CURRENCY, AND EVEN THE ACTIVITY OF THE STOCK MARKET.

THEY MAY DELIBERATE ON LAND POLICY, PUBLIC UTILITIES, PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND CHARGES, FRANCHISES, OR ANY OF A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS -- ALL OF THEM OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE EVERYDAY RUNNING OF THIS CITY, OR TO ITS LONG-TERM PLANNING.

THEY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO, BY VIRTUE OF THE DIFFERENT FIELDS THEY REPRESENT IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND PRIVATE SECTOR, ADVISE THE GOVERNOR IN HIS ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG AS THE QUEEN'S APPOINTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE.

THESE PEOPLE MAKE UP THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL -- OR EXCO FOR SHORT.

THEY ARE, TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, HONG KONG'S CABINET.

IN RECENT YEARS, UNOFFICIALS CHOSEN HAVE INCLUDED A SCIENTIFIC TECHNOCRAT, THE HEAD OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING BANKS, DIRECTORS OF OTHERS, BUSINESSMEN, FINANCIERS, DOCTORS, AND ACCOUNTANTS.

ON BEING NOMINATED TO EXCO, THE UNOFFICIALS, LIKE THE OFFICIALS, SWEAR TO GIVE PERSONAL AND INDEPENDENT ADVICE AND COUNSEL ACCORDING TO THEIR CONSCIENCE +FOR THE GOOD MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OF HONG KONG.+

WE HAVE IT, IN THE WORDS OF THE FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JOHN GRIFFITHS, WRITING IN THE 1983 HONG KONG ANNUAL REPORT ABOUT THE WORK OF EXCO, THAT:

+POLICY DECISIONS ARE BASED UPON CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE QUALIFIED BY JUDGEMENT OF WHAT IS PRACTICABLE AT ANY TIME, AND NEVER CONSCIOUSLY ASCRIBED TO ANY POLITICAL THEORY. BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, THOSE POLICIES ARE FASHIONED AND HONED FOLLOWING A MOST ELABORATE AND WIDESPREAD NETWORK OF CONSULTATION -- HONG KONG'S VERSION OF ATHENIAN DEMOCRACY.+

/EXCO, IN

EXCO, IN SHORT, IS THEREFORE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL POLICY DECISIONS RESULTING IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL. AND WHERE THESE POLICIES TOUCH ON LEGISLATION, THE RELEVANT BILL IS PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL -- HONG KONG'S LAW MAKING BODY, MADE UP, AGAIN, OF OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS -- FOR CONSIDERATION, PRIOR TO APPROVAL.

DISCUSSIONS IN EXCO ARE SECRET. AT THE TIME ANY ITEM IS BROUGHT UP FOR DISCUSSION, ANY MEMBER WITH AN INTEREST TO DECLARE DOES SO AND RETIRES FROM THE ROOM, UNLESS INVITED BY THE GOVERNOR FOR SPECIAL REASONS TO REMAIN.

THE PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO PRODUCED THE PAPER, ALONG WITH ANY NECESSARY EXPERTS, ENTER THE CHAMBER TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ASKED BY MEMBERS. THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL, WHO IS INVARIABLY CHINESE, AND WHO HAS A PARTICULAR STANDING IN BOTH THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY, STARTS THE DISCUSSIONS, AND OTHER MEMBERS STATE THEIR VIEWS. THE DEBATE CONTINUES UNTIL USUALLY A CONSENSUS EMERGES-- IF NOT, A STRAW VOTE IS TAKEN OR THE DECISION DEFERRED.

FINALLY, THE GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES HIS DECISION, WHICH THE CLERK RECORDS IN THE MINUTES.

LATER, ON RECEIPT OF THE RELEVANT MINUTE, THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY STARTS TO IMPLEMENT THE DECISION. WHERE LEGISLATION IS CONCERNED, THE PROPOSAL GOES FORWARD, FOR INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

EXCO COMPRISES THE GOVERNOR, FOUR EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION WHO ARE: THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL -- AND 11 NOMINATED MEMBERS: TWO OFFICIAL, BEING THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, AND THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, AND NINE PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS FROM THE COMMUNITY.

UNOFFICIALS MAKE UP THE MAJORITY OF EXCO. BUT BY PREROGATIVE UNDER THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS, IT IS THE GOVERNOR WHO DECIDES WHAT MATTERS SHOULD BE PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL.

IF A MEMBER SHOULD REQUEST THE DISCUSSION OF A SPECIFIC MATTER AND THE GOVERNOR REFUSES HIM PERMISSION, THEN A RECORD OF BOTH THE REQUEST AND THE REFUSAL MUST BE ENTERED IN THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL, IF THE MEMBER SO DESIRES.

CONSTITUTIONALLY, EXCO ADVISES THE GOVERNOR, WHO THEN MAKES A DECISION. IF THE GOVERNOR DECIDES TO ACT AGAINST THE ADVICE OF THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS, HE IS REQUIRED TO REPORT THE REASONS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL -- THE GOVERNOR ACTING AFTER CONSULTING THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL -- ALSO CONSIDERS APPEALS, PETITIONS AND OBJECTIONS UNDER THOSE ORDINANCES WHICH CONFER A STATUTORY RIGHT OF APPEAL.

THE PAST FEW YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF EXCO. THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS CEASED TO BE AN EX-OFFICIO MEMBER IN AUGUST 1983 BUT REMAINED AN OFFICIAL MEMBER UNTIL HE WAS REPLACED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY IN JANUARY 1985. THE NUMBER OF NOMINATED UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FLUCTUATED FROM NINE IN 1983 TO 11 IN 1984 AND THEN TO NINE AGAIN IN 1985.

FOR THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, AS STATED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YUDE, THERE IS NO INTENTION TO MAKE ANY CHANGES AFFECTING EXCO.

SIR EDWARD MADE THIS KNOWN WHEN TABLING THE +WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG+ IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 21 LAST YEAR.

HE RECALLED THAT IT HAD BEEN PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER, WHICH PRECEDED THE WHITE PAPER, THAT THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD, IN DUE COURSE, ELECT THE MAJORITY OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF EXCO FROM AMONG THEIR OWN NUMBER. HE ALSO NOTED +THE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING A MINISTERIAL SYSTEM.+

THE GOVERNOR THEN SAID: +THE WHOLE QUESTION OF THE EXECUTIVE AND ITS COMPOSITION AND ROLE WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION AT A LATER STAGE.+

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MARCH ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL FIGURES OUT
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THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IN TERMS OF MONTHS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR DECLINED IN MARCH 1985 WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

WHILE AN INCREASE IN ORDERS-ON-HAND WAS REPORTED IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, ORDERS IN THE WEARING APPAREL, PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES DROPPED. THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY, ON THE OTHER HAND, REPORTED NO CHANGE IN THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS HELD.

EMPLOYMENT IN MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES DECREASED. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT IN THE CASE OF THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY.

DECREASES IN PAYROLL AND IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE REPORTED BY ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AS MANY FIRMS DISTRIBUTED YEAR-END BONUS AND DOUBLE PAY IN FEBRUARY.

/EMPLOYMENT IN

EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICES SECTORS REMAINED STABLE. HOWEVER, BOTH PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THESE TWO SECTORS DECLINED DUE TO THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES AND DOUBLE PAY BY SOME FIRMS IN FEBRUARY.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS ARE SHOWN IN THE TABLES BELOW.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH 1983.

AS THE SAMPLE WAS NOT DRAWN ON A RANDOM BASIS, THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT RESULTS ON MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE MIGHT NOT REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, ALTHOUGH THEY SHOULD GIVE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR MARCH 1985 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, AT \$1.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT AT 3-7212768.

A. ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	(% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)			ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS) FOR MARCH 1985
	JAN. 1985	FEB. 1985	MAR. 1985	
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	-2	*	-4	4.37
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	-4	*	*	2.16
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-1	5	-1	4.39
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	6	2	2	3.67
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	*	*	-1	5.41
OTHERS	*	*	2	4.41
<u>ALL ABOVE INDUSTRIES</u>	<u>-1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>4.40</u>

/B. EMPLOYMENT

B. EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

<u>INDUSTRY/SERVICES</u>	PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED			PER CAPITA EARNINGS			PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR MARCH 1985 HK \$
	(% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)			(% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)			
	JAN. 1985	FEB., 1985	MAR. 1985	JAN. 1985	FEB. 1985	MAR. 1985	
<u>MANUFACTURING</u>	*	-2	-1	15	11	-23	2 860
FOOD AND DRINKS	1	*	*	48	-32	- 8	3 390
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	-1	-2	1	10	9	-20	2 466
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	-1	-1	-1	2	20	-28	2 723
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-2	-3	-1	10	64	-44	2 512
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	*	-2	-1	30	20	-36	2 392
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	*	-4	-4	12	12	-21	2 786
OTHERS	2	*	*	20	-2	-17	4 062
<u>CONSTRUCTION **</u>	-1	-3	*	13	6	-12	4 550
<u>SERVICES</u>	*	*	*	17	-21	-11	5 247
BANKS	-1	*	*	-7	-34	2	4 662
HOTELS	-X	-1	*	58	-20	-33	3 533
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	*	*	35	-23	- 8	5 229
OTHERS	1	*	*	11	- 2	-19	6 747

* CHANGES WITHIN \pm 0.5 PER CENT

** PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS NOT INCLUDED.

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NEW ID CARDS FOR MEN BORN BETWEEN 1937 - 1940
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NEW I.D. CARDS WILL BE ISSUED TO MEN BORN IN 1937, 1938, 1939 AND 1940 FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY) UNTIL JUNE 29.

APPLICANTS MUST BRING ALONG THEIR OLD I.D. CARDS WHEN THEY CALL AT ANY OF THE EIGHT ISSUE OFFICES OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

THE OFFICES ARE OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 9.30 PM, EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (JUNE 15, 17 AND 22).

THEY ARE LOCATED AT:

- HONG KONG : BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.
- EAST KOWLOON : AMOY GARDEN PLAZA, 2ND FLOOR, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD.
- WEST KOWLOON : CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2ND FLOOR, 393 CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI.
- TSUEN WAN : EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 29-37 TSUEN FU STREET.
- SHA TIN : SHATIN CENTRE, PODIUM FLOOR, 2-16 WANG POK STREET.
- YUEN LONG : HOP YICK CENTRE, 2ND FLOOR, 31 HOP YICK ROAD.
- TUEN MUN : CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, CHI LOK FA YUEN.
- SHEUNG SHUI : TSUEN WO TAI LAU, GROUND FLOOR, 82-84 SAN FUNG AVENUE, SHEK WU HUI.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE ISSUE OFFICES WERE USUALLY MORE CROWDED THAN USUAL DURING THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF A NEW PHASE.

HE ADVISED APPLICANTS TO AVOID THE INITIAL RUSH, ADDING THAT FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE TO WORK ON WEEK-ENDS, SATURDAY AFTERNOON WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO APPLY.

+THOSE WHO WISH TO MAKE USE OF THE MAIL-IN APPOINTMENT SERVICE CAN GET APPLICATION FORMS FROM ANY DISTRICT OFFICE OR IMMIGRATION OFFICE,+ HE SAID.

+BUT THE FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ISSUE OFFICE OF THEIR CHOICE AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE THE END OF THE PHASE,+ HE ADDED.

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CALL FOR MORE SUPPORT FOR SPORTS
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INDUSTRIALISTS AND EMPLOYERS IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT ARE URGED TO ENCOURAGE THEIR WORKERS AND STAFF TO TAKE PART IN MORE RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES.

THE APPEAL CAME FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDDY CHAN, TODAY (SUNDAY) AT THE OPENING OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT INTER-FIRM AND FACTORY CHAMPIONSHIP CUP.

MR CHAN SAID SPORTS ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS HAD PROVIDED GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS TO RELAX AND USE THEIR LEISURE TIME.

+THE GOOD AND HIGH SPIRITS OF WORKERS HELP BOOST PRODUCTIVITY, REDUCE MISTAKES OR THE LIKELIHOOD OF ACCIDENTS. AND COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WILL STAND TO BENEFIT,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THE CHAMPIONSHIP, WHICH FEATURES SEVERAL COMPETITIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS BECAUSE +IT PROMOTES FRIENDSHIP AS WELL AS ENCOURAGES MORE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS+.

+TO SHOW ITS SUPPORT, THE DISTRICT BOARD HAS ALLOCATED ABOUT \$100 000 TO THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT SPORTS AND RECREATION COUNCIL FOR ORGANISING THE CHAMPIONSHIP AND MORE THAN 20 SPORTS EVENTS THIS YEAR.

+WE HOPE THE COUNCIL WILL MAKE THE BEST USE OF THESE RESOURCES TO MEET THE DEMAND BY ALL AGE GROUPS IN THE DISTRICT AND TO PROMOTE THEIR SENSE OF DISTRICT IDENTITY,+ MR CHAN ADDED.

SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE CHAMPIONSHIP CUP IS CO-ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT SPORTS AND RECREATION COUNCIL AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S SOUTHERN DISTRICT RECREATION, AMENITIES AND SPORTS OFFICE.

TODAY'S CEREMONY WAS FOLLOWED BY A MINI-SOCCER COMPETITION FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES. COMPETITIONS IN BASKETBALL, SWIMMING, TRACK AND OTHER SPORTS WILL BE HELD OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

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RURAL COMMITTEE URGED TO WIDEN SERVICES

ANY CHANGES TO THE PLANS OF THE JUNK BAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT WILL BE PUT TO THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD FOR COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN HO, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE HANG HAU RURAL COMMITTEE, HE SAID BOARD MEMBERS HAD ALREADY BEEN BRIEFED ON DETAILS OF THE PLAN EARLIER THIS YEAR.

+BUT A PROJECT OF THE MAGNITUDE OF JUNK BAY NEW TOWN NEEDS TO BE REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME. AND THE DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE CONSULTED ON ANY REVISION OR CHANGES.+

THE DEVELOPMENT OF JUNK BAY WILL BRING ABOUT A MASSIVE POPULATION GROWTH, AND MR HO URGED THE RURAL COMMITTEE TO USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIDEN ITS SCOPE OF SERVICES AND, AT THE SAME TIME, STRENGTHEN ITS LINK WITH TRADITIONAL VILLAGES.

REFERRING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL IN HANG HAU MENTIONED EARLIER BY THE RE-ELECTED RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR YAU KEI, MR HO SAID THE DISTRICT OFFICE SUPPORTED THE IDEA IN PRINCIPLE AND WAS NOW WORKING WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON THE PROPOSAL.

AMONG THE GUESTS AT TODAY'S INAUGURATION CEREMONY WERE THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WILLIAM WAN, AND THE HEUNG YEE KUK CHAIRMAN, MR LAU WONG-FAT.

COMPUTER CONTEST WINNERS TO GET PRIZES

THREE STUDENTS WHO WON THE COMPUTER ASSISTED LEARNING SOFTWARE CONTEST WILL BE PRESENTED WITH THEIR PRIZES, INCLUDING A TRIP TO SINGAPORE, ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 22).

THEY WILL BE LEAVING HONG KONG LATER THIS MONTH TO ATTEND THE SINGAPORE SCIENCE FORTNIGHT 1985.

THE WINNERS ARE AMONG 28 STUDENTS, AGED 15 TO 20, WHO TOOK PART IN THE CONTEST WHICH WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE SHELL COMPANY OF HONG KONG LIMITED.

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THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), DR KONG YUN-FUN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY ON WEDNESDAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE COMPUTER ASSISTED LEARNING SOFTWARE CONTEST PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE 10TH FLOOR, SHELL HOUSE, 24-28, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG, ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 22) AT 5.30 PM.

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STUDENTS GET TASTE OF WORK

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A WORK ORIENTATION PROGRAMME WHICH OFFERS STUDENTS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE REAL WORLD OF WORK HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

ABOUT 700 SECONDARY STUDENTS FROM 23 SCHOOLS IN SHA TIN, TAI PO AND THE NORTHERN DISTRICT ARE TAKING PART IN THE MONTH-LONG PROGRAMME, WHICH STARTED ON MAY 9.

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES VISITS TO ESTABLISHMENTS IN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE CIVIL SERVICE AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES, WHERE SPECIALISTS ARE INVITED TO GIVE TALKS ON THEIR WORK.

A SPOKESMAN SAID THE WORK ORIENTATION PROGRAMME HAD BEEN ORGANISED TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR AND TO OFFER STUDENTS THE CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE THE REAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE WORKPLACE.

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TOP STUDY HONOURS FOR STANLEY MAN

* * *

A 25-YEAR-OLD CANDIDATE FROM STANLEY PRISON HAS BEEN AWARDED A BRONZE MEDAL FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE TECHNOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

HE IS AMONG THE 31 HONG KONG RESIDENTS, INCLUDING 20 HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC GRADUATES AND STUDENTS, WHO WON TOP HONOURS IN VARIOUS TECHNOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OFFERED BY THE INSTITUTE.

/THE INSTITUTE

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THE INSTITUTE OFFERS A BRONZE OR A SILVER MEDAL TO THE BEST CANDIDATE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE IT AND WHO HAS PASSED ALL THE EXAMINATION COMPONENTS IN ONE AND THE SAME SERIES.

THE MAN SAT FOR THE INSTITUTE'S PART ONE (SECOND YEAR) TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNICIANS EXAMINATION IN JUNE LAST YEAR AND ATTAINED DISTINCTIONS IN ALL THE SUBJECTS HE TOOK, INCLUDING MATHEMATICS A, TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRINCIPLES AND COMPUTER A.

IN ADDITION, HE WAS NAMED THE BEST CANDIDATE BY THE INSTITUTE IN THE 1983/84 PART ONE COMPUTER A EXAMINATION.

THE MAN, SERVING A SEVEN-YEAR SENTENCE, BEGAN STUDYING THE TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNICIANS COURSE WHEN IT WAS INTRODUCED IN STANLEY PRISON IN 1983.

THE FIRST YEAR TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNICIANS COURSE, ATTENDED BY 10 PRISONERS, WAS CONDUCTED BY A SENIOR MASTER AND A MASTER OF THE PRISON.

THE GROUP HAD TO ATTEND HALF-DAY THEORETICAL TRAINING IN THE CLASSROOM AND HALF-DAY PRACTICAL TRAINING IN THE TELEVISION AND RADIO REPAIRING WORKSHOP INSIDE THE PRISON.

ASSISTED BY THE MASTERS OF THE PRISON, THEY SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS FOR THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE EXAMINATION HELD IN DECEMBER 1983 THROUGH THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

EACH CANDIDATE TOOK THREE PAPERS - PRACTICAL MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING SCIENCE AND ELEMENTARY TELECOMMUNICATION PRACTICE - IN THE INSTITUTE'S PART ONE (FIRST YEAR) TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNICIANS EXAMINATION.

RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION SHOWED A REMARKABLE 100 PER CENT PASS IN EVERY PAPER. IN ADDITION, 22 DISTINCTIONS AND SIX CREDITS WERE EARNED.

WITH SUCH ENCOURAGING RESULTS, EIGHT CANDIDATES CONTINUED WITH THE SECOND YEAR COURSE AND SAT FOR THE EXAMINATION IN JUNE 1984.

OF THE 24 PAPERS THEY TOOK, EVERY PAPER CARRIED A DISTINCTION.

THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GROUP ILLUSTRATED THE EFFORT BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE FACILITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT FOR A PERSON SERVING SENTENCE TO USE TIME AT HIS DISPOSAL TO GOOD ADVANTAGE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

/AT PRESENT,

AT PRESENT, SIX OF THE GROUP, INCLUDING THE BRONZE-MEDAL WINNER, ARE STUDYING THE THIRD YEAR COURSE. MEANWHILE, ANOTHER BATCH OF 12 PRISONERS HAVE ENROLLED FOR THE FIRST YEAR COURSE.

SINCE 1983, A TOTAL OF 165 CANDIDATES FROM DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS HAVE SAT AT VARIOUS OPEN EXAMINATIONS INCLUDING THE CITY AND GUILDS COURSE FOR TELECOMMUNICATION, BOOK-KEEPING AND TYPEWRITING OF THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS TYPEWRITING AND ENGLISH IN THE PITMAN EXAMINATIONS. THE PASS RATE HAS BEEN OVER 90 PER CENT.

THESE OPEN EXAMINATIONS AND CERTIFICATES PROVIDE INMATES WITH RECOGNISED STANDARDS AND ARE VERY USEFUL TO THEM AFTER THEIR DISCHARGE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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+LEARN-TO-SWIM+ SCHEME POPULAR
* * * * *

IF YOU HAVEN'T LEARNT TO SWIM AND ENVY THOSE WHO REGULARLY ENJOY A DIP DURING THE PRESENT HOT WEATHER, THE URBAN COUNCIL'S +LEARN-TO-SWIM+ COURSE CAN PERHAPS SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM.

ACCORDING TO MR TSANG CHO-CHUNG, WHO HAS BEEN AN INSTRUCTOR OF THE +LEARN-TO-SWIM+ COURSE EVER SINCE THE SCHEME STARTED IN 1972, THE VAST MAJORITY OF HIS STUDENTS COULD MASTER THE SKILL AFTER ATTENDING A 15-HOUR COURSE.

+THAT IS VERY REWARDING. EQUALLY ENCOURAGING IS THAT MANY OF MY FORMER STUDENTS ARE ALWAYS SEEN SWIMMING AT THE URBAN COUNCIL'S PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS,+ SAID MR TSANG.

+IT IS ALSO NOT UNCOMMON TO FIND PARENTS AND CHILDREN ATTENDING THE COURSE TOGETHER.+

HE NOTED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE SCHEME LAY PARTLY IN THE VERY HIGH TEACHING STANDARD. ALL THE SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS WERE FULLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS OF THE HONG KONG SWIMMING TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

IN HIS VIEW, VIRTUALLY ALL PEOPLE, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR AGE OR SEX, COULD MASTER THE SKILL OF SWIMMING IF THEY HAD THE DETERMINATION AND PERSEVERANCE.

/+SWIMMING IS

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+SWIMMING IS NOT DIFFICULT TO LEARN AS THE AVERAGE PERSON CAN MASTER THE BASIC SKILL IN ABOUT FIVE HOURS.

+BUT IN MOST CASES, THE MAJOR OBSTACLE IS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTOR. MY BEST ADVICE TO BEGINNERS IS NOT TO HAVE ANY FEAR OF THE WATER. ONCE THEY CAN OVERCOME THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTOR, THEY CAN HAVE A SMOOTH TAKEOFF,+ SAID MR TSANG.

MR TSANG FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT A BEGINNER SHOULD LEARN FROM AN EXPERIENCED INSTRUCTOR IN ORDER TO START IN THE CORRECT WAY.

DURING THE +LEARN-TO-SWIM+ COURSE, STUDENTS ARE TAUGHT THE BASIC SKILLS. ALL KINDS OF SWIMMING STYLES -- BREAST STROKE, CRAWL STROKE, AND BACK STROKE -- ARE TAUGHT TO ENABLE THE PARTICIPANTS TO GET TO KNOW THE DIFFERENT STYLES OF SWIMMING SO THAT THEY CAN CHOOSE WHATEVER STYLE SUITS THEM BEST.

TO ENABLE THE PARTICIPANTS TO LEARN IN AN EASIER AND FASTER MANNER, VARIOUS ITEMS OF TEACHING EQUIPMENT -- SUCH AS KICK-BOARDS, RATTAN HOOPS, ROPES AND OTHER AIDS -- ARE USED IN THE INITIAL STAGE OF THE COURSE.

AN INTERESTING TREND IN THE +LEARN-TO-SWIM+ SCHEME WAS A LARGE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WOMAN APPLICANTS DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS, ACCORDING TO THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR AMENITIES OFFICER (SWIMMING), MR PAUL CHEUNG.

TO CATER FOR THE GROWING INTEREST OF WOMEN IN THE SPORT, THE COUNCIL THIS YEAR ORGANISED MORE COURSES FOR WOMEN -- 176 AS AGAINST 156 CLASSES FOR MEN. PREVIOUSLY, THE NUMBER OF CLASSES FOR MEN AND WOMEN WAS THE SAME.

MR CHEUNG SAID THE +LEARN-TO-SWIM+ SCHEME HAD COME A LONG WAY SINCE IT WAS ORGANISED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL IN 1972 AS PART OF ITS ANNUAL CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE WATER SAFETY.

+A RECORD NUMBER OF 8 958 PARTICIPANTS OF DIFFERENT AGES FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TOOK PART IN THE SCHEME LAST YEAR REPRESENTING A SIXFOLD INCREASE OVER THE 1972 FIGURE,+ HE SAID.

+THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS THIS YEAR IS EXPECTED TO PASS THE 10 000 MARK.+

IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE THE PROFICIENCY OF SWIMMING AND SWIMMING AS A SURVIVAL SKILL, MR CHEUNG NOTED, THE URBAN COUNCIL, TOGETHER WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB, ALSO ORGANISES THE HONG KONG SWIMMERS' BADGE SCHEME IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE +LEARN-TO-SWIM+ SCHEME.

/EACH YEAR,

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EACH YEAR, A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF LEARNERS FROM THE BEGINNER CLASSES UNDERTAKE THE PROFICIENCY TESTS. LAST YEAR, 65 PER CENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS WERE ISSUED WITH DISTANCE CERTIFICATES AFTER THEY PASSED THE EXAMINATION ON SWIMMING SKILL AT THE END OF EACH COURSE.

THIS YEAR'S +LEARN-TO-SWIM+ SCHEME INCLUDES 341 CLASSES DIVIDED INTO SIX SERIES WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL'S 12 SWIMMING POOL COMPLEXES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE HARBOUR. OF THE TOTAL, 299 CLASSES ARE FOR BEGINNERS, 34 FOR INTERMEDIATE LEVEL AND EIGHT FOR ADVANCED LEVEL.

+THE COUNCIL IS REGULARLY MONITORING THE PROGRESS OF THE SCHEME AND MORE COURSES WILL BE HELD IN THOSE DISTRICTS WITH GREATER DEMAND. FOR EXAMPLE, MORE CLASSES ARE ORGANISED AT LAI CHI KOK PARK, LEI CHENG UK, MORSE PARK, AND KWUN TONG SWIMMING POOL COMPLEXES,+ SAID MR CHEUNG.

EACH SERIES WILL LAST FIVE WEEKS WITH THREE ONE-HOUR SESSIONS PER WEEK. THE FIRST SERIES HAS ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED, THE SECOND WILL START TOMORROW (MAY 20) AND THE REST ON JUNE 24, JULY 29, SEPTEMBER 2 AND OCTOBER 14 RESPECTIVELY. ENROLMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED A WEEK BEFORE THE START OF EACH SERIES.

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CAS MEMBERS COMPETE IN FOOTDRILL * * *

SOME 370 VOLUNTEERS FROM 17 CAS TEAMS AROUND THE TERRITORY TOOK PART IN THE SERVICE'S INTER-UNIT FOOTDRILL COMPETITION THIS (SUNDAY) MORNING.

THE CONTEST TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD IN TURNOUT AND SENSE OF DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS WAS HELD AT THE CAS KOWLOON TRAINING CENTRE.

FOOTDRILL WAS IMPORTANT IN TRAINING MEMBERS TO OBEY ORDERS AND FOR DISCIPLINE. IT ALSO PROMOTES TEAM SPIRIT AND FACILITATES COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TEAMS, A CAS SPOKESMAN SAID.

AFTER THE COMPETITION, THE CAS N.T. REGIONAL COMMANDER, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN PRESENTED PRIZES TO THE TOP THREE TEAMS WITH THE HIGHEST TOTAL SCORE IN UNIFORM AND DRILL PERFORMANCE.

THE WINNING TEAM - THE CADET CORPS WAS AWARDED THE CAS N.T. REGIONAL COMMANDER'S CUP.

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VILLAGERS WARNED ON ILLEGAL SLAUGHTERING

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THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AGAIN WARNED NEW TERRITORIES VILLAGERS INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL SLAUGHTERING TO STOP IMMEDIATELY, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ALSO ADVISED MEAT SHOP OPERATORS AGAINST POSSESSING UNCERTIFIED MEAT FOR SALE AS IT WAS AN OFFENCE.

THE WARNING CAME AFTER SEVEN OFFENDERS IN YUEN LONG AND SAI KUNG DISTRICTS WERE FINED A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$13 800 FOR RELATED OFFENCES DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR OPERATING AN UNLICENSED SLAUGHTERHOUSE WAS \$10 000 WHILE THAT FOR POSSESSING UNCERTIFIED MEAT FOR SALE WAS \$2 000.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CARRY OUT REGULAR RAIDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO STAMP OUT THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ADVISED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NOT TO BUY MEAT FROM ON-STREET HAWKERS AS SUCH MEAT, MOSTLY SUPPLIED BY UNLICENSED SLAUGHTERHOUSES, WAS NOT HYGIENICALLY PREPARED AND WOULD PROBABLY BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

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POLLUTANT THREAT WORKSHOP FOR CHEMISTRY TEACHERS

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TEN WORKSHOPS DEALING WITH THE THREAT OF POLLUTANTS CONTAINING SULPHUR AND NITROGEN WILL BE HELD NEXT MONTH FOR CHEMISTRY TEACHERS.

ORGANISED BY THE SCIENCE SUBJECTS SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, THE WORKSHOPS WILL INCLUDE ILLUSTRATED TALKS, DISCUSSION SESSIONS AND PRACTICAL WORK ON THE THREAT OF THOSE POLLUTANTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE STANDARD METHODS FOR ANALYSING THEM.

CHEMISTRY TEACHERS WILL FIND THE WORKSHOPS USEFUL AS THEY BEAR RELEVANCE TO THE CHEMISTRY SYLLABUS FOR FORMS IV AND V, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

/THE WORKSHOPS

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1985

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THE WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD IN THE SCIENCE TEACHING CENTRE ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG, BETWEEN JUNE 19 AND 29.

AS EACH WORKSHOP CAN ACCOMMODATE ONLY 24 TEACHERS, APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS WISHING TO NOMINATE TEACHERS TO THE WORKSHOPS SHOULD APPLY TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (CHEMISTRY), ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, 5TH FLOOR, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG, BEFORE MAY 31.

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EAST KOWLOON MAINS LAYING JOB OFFERED

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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR WATER SUPPLY MAINS LAYING IN EAST KOWLOON.

THE PROJECT IS, PART OF THE WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME FOR EAST KOWLOON DEVELOPMENT. IT INCLUDES THE LAYING OF ABOUT 1 860 METRES OF FRESH WATER MAIN ALONG LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, HAMMER HILL ROAD AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN AUGUST AND TAKE ABOUT NINE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN NORTH POINT

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FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 22), NORTH POINT ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH KING'S ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 75 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE MADE AN URBAN CLEARWAY BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM DAILY FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO FACILITATE TRAM TRACK WORK.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE, NO MOTOR VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS BETWEEN THE SPECIFIED HOURS.

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