



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, MARCH, 19, 1982

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HKIE GAINS GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR DAVID MCDONALD, ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ADDRESSING THE INSTITUTION'S SEVENTH ANNUAL DINNER, HE SAID THAT MEANT THE INSTITUTION WOULD NOW ENJOY EQUAL STATUS WITH OTHER RECOGNISED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTIONS.

MR MCDONALD RECALLED THAT THE HKIE HAD PURSUED ITS REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID: +THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO BE SATISFIED THAT THE INSTITUTION COULD DEMONSTRATE AND ENSURE THAT, ON ALL COUNTS, ITS TRAINING AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS MET THE HIGH STANDARDS REQUIRED OF RECOGNISED PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND THAT THE INSTITUTION HAD THE STRENGTH, THE WILL AND THE RESOURCES TO EXERCISE DISCIPLINE AND MAINTAIN THOSE STANDARDS.+

HE SAID THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY A PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTION BORE ON GAINING GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION WAS GREAT AND RECOGNITION WAS NOT GIVEN LIGHTLY.

+HOWEVER, I NOW FEEL ASSURED THAT THIS PROFESSIONAL BODY CAN MEET THE PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF ITS YOUNG ASPIRING ENGINEERS AND THOSE OF THE PROFESSION AS A WHOLE,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

ON THE DEMAND FOR TECHNICIAN AND PROFESSIONAL MANPOWER IN HONG KONG, MR MCDONALD SAID IT HAD OVER THE YEARS CONSISTENTLY EXCEEDED THE LOCALLY AVAILABLE SUPPLY.

+THIS SITUATION HAS BEEN LARGELY BROUGHT ABOUT BY A CONTINUING EXPANSION OF THE ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, WHICH IN TURN HAS REQUIRED MORE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS TO MEET OUR NEEDS THAN ARE PRODUCED LOCALLY,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

HE SAID THE INCREASED SPENDING ON PUBLIC WORKS IN RECENT YEARS WAS AN INDICATION OF THE INCREASING VOLUME AND COMPLEXITY OF WORK.

+IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1978-79 THE EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMMES (EXCLUDING HOUSING AND LAND PURCHASES) WAS \$2 064 MILLION. FOR 1979-80 THE FIGURE WAS \$2 944 MILLION AND FOR 1980-81, \$3 156 MILLION. THE ESTIMATE FOR THIS YEAR IS \$5 090 MILLION AND FOR 1982-83 IT IS \$6 700 MILLION,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

+THE GREATER PART OF THIS MONEY IS SPENT ON ROADS AND OTHER CIVIL ENGINEERING PROJECTS, WATER SUPPLIES, THE KCR MODERNISATION PROGRAMME, THE AIRPORT AND HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT.

+THIS INCREASING COMMITMENT OVER THE YEARS HAS RESULTED IN A CORRESPONDING GROWTH IN THE PWD PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING ESTABLISHMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, IT HAS PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO FILL ALL THE RESULTING VACANCIES BY LOCAL RECRUITMENT.+

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT IN THE 11 MONTHS FROM APRIL 1981 TO FEBRUARY 1982, THE PWD WAS ONLY ABLE TO RECRUIT A TOTAL OF 70 LOCAL PROFESSIONAL AND ASSISTANT PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS. IN THE SAME PERIOD, THE PWD HAD TO RECRUIT 127 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS FROM OVERSEAS TO FILL THE BALANCE OF VACANCIES WHICH HAD RISEN.

+IN SPITE OF REPEATED LOCAL AND OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT DRIVES, OUT OF A TOTAL ENGINEERING ESTABLISHMENT OF 903 POSTS AT MARCH 1 THIS YEAR, 206 POSTS REMAINED UNFILLED, REPRESENTING AN ENGINEERING MANPOWER SHORTFALL OF NEARLY 23 PER CENT OVERALL,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE MAJOR UTILITY COMPANIES COMPETED WITH AN ACTIVE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS FROM THE RELATIVELY SMALL LOCAL COMMON POOL TO MEET THEIR INCREASING COMMITMENTS.

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT TRAINING PROVIDED THE WAY TO HELP REDRESS THE CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF ENGINEERS.

+MORE LOCAL TRAINING PLACES MUST BE PROVIDED IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS BY BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS TO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASING NUMBER OF ENGINEERING GRADUATES QUALIFYING FROM OUR LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC, AND THE LARGE NUMBERS WHO RETURN TO HONG KONG ON COMPLETION OF STUDIES OVERSEAS. IN THIS WAY WE MAY BEGIN TO MEET THE LOCAL DEMAND,+ HE SAID.

THE TRAINING GIVEN, HE ADDED, MUST BE OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY, PROPERLY STRUCTURED AND ADEQUATELY SUPERVISED. PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS WOULD SET THE STANDARDS, TEST THEM AND ENSURE THAT THEY WERE MAINTAINED.

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING SEVERAL DETAILED REPORTS ON ENGINEERING TRAINING, CONTAINED VALUABLE LESSONS FOR THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG.

+PUT SIMPLY, THE MESSAGE IS THAT WE SHOULD GUARD AGAINST THE NARROW CONCEPT OF ENGINEERING BEING MERELY A BRANCH OF APPLIED SCIENCE,+ HE SAID.

+INSTEAD WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF WIDER SKILLS AND OUTLOOK WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT OUR ENGINEERS ARE PROPERLY EQUIPPED TO TAKE ON, AT A LATER STAGE IN THEIR CAREERS, BROADER MANAGERIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES RATHER THAN BEING EMPLOYED SIMPLY AS PROVIDERS OF TECHNICAL SERVICES.+

ON THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MR MCDONALD SAID THAT AS FROM APRIL 1, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD DISAPPEAR, AND BE REPLACED BY FIVE AUTONOMOUS DEPARTMENTS: ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, WATER SUPPLIES, NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT, BUILDING DEVELOPMENT AND LANDS.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT BRANCH, LANDS AND WORKS, WOULD CO-ORDINATE POLICY FOR THE FIVE DEPARTMENTS.

AS SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR MCDONALD SAID, HE WOULD RETAIN A STRONG INTEREST IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROFESSIONS INVOLVED IN THE BUILDING AND ENGINEERING FIELDS.

DIVERSIFICATION - A PROGRESS REPORT

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GIVING A PROGRESS REPORT ON SOME OF THE 47 RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION (ACD) IN OCTOBER, 1979, THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS MR BILL DORWARD SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT IT WAS TIMELY TO EXAMINE HOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE BEING CARRIED OUT.

+ONE OF THE MAIN DIFFICULTIES ABOUT GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO INDUSTRY, WHETHER IN LARGELY NON-INTERVENTIONIST HONG KONG OR A CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMY, IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIALOGUE SO THAT BOTH SIDES UNDERSTAND WHAT IS NEEDED AND WHAT CAN REALISTICALLY BE PROVIDED,+ HE TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HK ISLAND WEST.

+AN EARLY CONSEQUENCE OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT, THEREFORE, WAS THE APPOINTMENT OF A GOVERNMENT SCIENCE ADVISER WHO WAS CHARGED TO ADVISE ON POLICY AND CO-ORDINATE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT- AND ON THE ORGANISATION OF RESOURCES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SO AS TO MAXIMISE THEIR IMPACT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG.+

THIS ENDEAVOUR WAS SET BACK BY THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF MR GORDON BELL A FEW MONTHS LATER AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT. HIS SUCCESSOR, DR JOHN WRIGHT, TOOK UP HIS POST AT THE END OF 1981.

+AMONG HIS FIRST ACTS WAS THE ORGANISATION OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, OF WHICH HE IS CHAIRMAN AND ON WHICH ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF TRADE, INDUSTRIAL AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT. THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE OF THIS BODY IS AVAILABLE, THROUGH THE SCIENCE ADVISER, TO A HIGH LEVEL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB), CHAIRED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND SERVICED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY,+ SAID MR DORWARD.

THE EMPHASIS OF THE IDB - APPOINTED IN AUGUST 1980 TO PLAN, MONITOR AND TO ADVISE ON VARIOUS PROGRAMMES IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT - WAS ON SUPPORT FACILITIES AND TECHNICAL BACK UP SERVICES. IT HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE INVOLVED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY, WHICH IS AT AN ADVANCED PLANNING STAGE.

+THIS IS A PROGRESSIVE COMMITMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT AND WHILE IT WILL FOCUS INITIALLY ON ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION, THE IDB WILL BE CALLED UPON TO CONSIDER WHERE WE SHOULD GO FROM THERE,+ SAID MR DORWARD.

+THE POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE MECHANICAL MEASUREMENTS, ILLUMINATION, OPTICAL AND ACOUSTIC NOISE MEASUREMENTS, THERMOMETRY AND IONISING RADIATIONS.+

ANOTHER KEY RECOMMENDATION OF THE ACD CONCERNED TESTING AND CERTIFICATION SERVICES - ESSENTIAL FOR HONG KONG EXPORTS. A SURVEY OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR LABORATORIES IN THIS FIELD WAS CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY TO ESTABLISH THE RANGE OF TESTING AND CERTIFICATION SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE, THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY ARE BEING USED, WHETHER THEY ARE ADEQUATE TO SATISFY INDUSTRIES NEEDS AND, IF NOT, WHAT NEW OR ADDITIONAL SERVICES SHOULD BE DEVELOPED.

+INDICATIONS ARE THAT IMPROVED AND ADDITIONAL SERVICES ARE REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, FOOD, GARMENT ACCESSORIES AND PACKAGING,+ ANNOUNCED MR DORWARD.

+THE IDB HAS DECIDED THAT CONSULTANTS ARE NECESSARY TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY IN CARRYING THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT FORWARD. IN PARTICULAR THE CONSULTANTS WILL BE ASKED TO ADVISE ON HOW A SYSTEM OF ACCREDITATION OF TESTING LABORATORIES MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED IN HONG KONG TO GUARANTEE THE COMPETENCE OF THESE FACILITIES, AND ENSURE THAT THEIR TEST CERTIFICATES WILL RECEIVE WIDE INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE..

+AS A PRELIMINARY TO THIS CONSULTANCY, A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TESTING AUTHORITIES WILL BE ARRIVING IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF THIS WEEK FOR AN INITIAL REVIEW,+ HE SAID.

BASED ON THE ACD'S ADVICE THAT A GOOD DEAL OF THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PROVISION OF INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT FACILITIES SHOULD BE BASED ON THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE, THE IDB HAD ENDORSED CERTAIN PROPOSALS WHICH WERE GOING AHEAD.

+THESE INCLUDE A TECHNO-ECONOMIC STUDY ON THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY WHICH WILL INVOLVE A STATE-OF-THE-ART REVIEW; AN ASSESSMENT OF FUTURE DIRECTION; AN ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND BACKUP FACILITIES; AND A REVIEW OF THE ORGANISATION AND COORDINATION OF RESOURCES OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY.

+FUNDS ARE ALSO BEING PROVIDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT BY THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE OF A MICRO-PROCESSOR DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY. THIS WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MICRO-PROCESSOR BASED CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO THE INDUSTRY.+

MR DORWARD SAID THE IDB WAS CONSIDERING A WIDE RANGE OF PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE FACILITATION OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, THE DISSEMINATION OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION, A TECHNO-ECONOMIC STUDY BY THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE OF THE METAL AND LIGHT ENGINEERING INDUSTRY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIE CASTING UNIT, THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRODUCT INNOVATION AND DESIGN UNIT, AND A PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INTO MATTERS AFFECTING HONG KONG INDUSTRIES.

THE ACD HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CO-ORDINATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGY IN INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION.

+THE HUB OF OUR INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION ACTIVITIES IS THE SO-CALLED 'ONE STOP UNIT' OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY. THIS UNIT IS STAFFED BY SPECIALIST OFFICERS WITH INDUSTRIAL BACKGROUNDS. THEIR DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF HONG KONG INDUSTRY AND ITS RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE MEAN THAT THEY CAN OFFER LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MANUFACTURERS A FULL SERVICE TO ENABLE THEM TO MAKE FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITIES,+ HE SAID.

THE UNIT ALSO PROVIDES THE BACKUP FOR THE OVERSEAS OFFICES - ONE OPEN IN TOKYO AND, OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS, OTHERS OPENING IN THE UK, GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES.

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+I HAVE FROM TIME TO TIME BEEN ASKED IF THIS IS NOT A DUPLICATION OF THE WELL-ESTABLISHED EFFORTS OF THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, WHICH ALREADY HAS SOME 20 OVERSEAS OFFICES. THE ANSWER IS THAT THE PROMOTION EFFORTS ARE AIMED AT DIFFERENT TARGETS AND REQUIRE DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES AND EXPERTISE.

+INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION INVOLVES ATTRACTING TECHNOLOGY AND INTERESTING INDUSTRIALISTS IN THE OPPORTUNITIES HONG KONG HAS TO OFFER THEM AS A BASE. TRADE PROMOTION, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS PRODUCT-ORIENTED AND AIMED AT THE BUSINESSMEN, THE IMPORTERS, WHOLESALERS AND RETAILERS. EACH ACTIVITY REQUIRES ITS OWN SPECIAL KIND OF BACKUP RESOURCES,+ MR DORWARD SAID.

+SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON A BROAD FRONT, AND A SOLID FOUNDATION IS GRADUALLY BEING LAID UPON WHICH WILL BE BUILT MANY MORE SPECIFIC ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL FACILITATE AND ACCELERATE THE PROCESS OF INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION,+ MR DORWARD SAID.

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UK-CHINA AIR SERVICES TALKS

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AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CHINESE AERONAUTICAL AUTHORITIES AT THE AIR SERVICES TALKS HELD IN BEIJING RECENTLY TO ADD CAPACITY TO THE HONG KONG-SHANGHAI ROUTE, UP TO 50 PER CENT MORE IF TRAFFIC DEMAND WARRANTS.

THE TALKS WERE HELD TO REVIEW GENERALLY THE AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN 1979.

MR BRIAN KEEP, DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, ATTENDED THE TALKS ON BEHALF OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

DISCUSSIONS COVERED THE TRUNK ROUTE SERVICES BETWEEN LONDON AND BEIJING AND THE REGIONAL ROUTES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND POINTS IN CHINA AT PRESENT OPERATED BY CAAC, CPA AND BRITISH AIRWAYS.

BOTH PARTIES WERE SATISFIED THAT CAPACITY ON THE TRUNK ROUTE WAS ADEQUATE AND WOULD BE SO FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

PROPOSALS FOR CERTAIN POSSIBLE CHANGES WERE MADE TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES AT THE TALKS, INCLUDING A PROPOSAL FOR BA TO CARRY INTERNATIONAL STOP-OVER TRAFFIC FROM HONG KONG TO BEIJING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE BALANCED AIR SERVICES RELATIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA. HOWEVER, THE DELEGATIONS WERE NOT ABLE TO REACH ANY AGREEMENT.

A FURTHER ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS IS EXPECTED TO BE HELD IN A FEW MONTHS' TIME.

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ROTARY THANKED FOR DONATION OF VESSEL
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MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WEST WERE PRAISED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, THIS AFTERNOON, FOR THEIR +SPIRIT OF SERVICE ABOVE SELF,+ TO THE COMMUNITY FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS.

THE OCCASION WAS THE OFFICIAL HANDING-OVER BY THE CLUB OF A MEDICAL LAUNCH, THE 'ROTARY', WHICH SIR MURRAY SAID +WILL GREATLY IMPROVE MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE OUTLYING ISLANDS AND LESS ACCESSIBLE COASTAL VILLAGES.+

+THIS MOST GENEROUS DONATION IS THE LATEST IN A LONG LINE OF VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WEST,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE CLUB HAD, OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS, DONATED MEDICAL FACILITIES AND GRANTED ASSISTANCE TO MANY MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS, HAD SUPPORTED SERVICES TO THE DISABLED AND ELDERLY AND HAD ENCOURAGED CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.

+ALL THESE PROJECTS HAVE MET SPECIAL AND CAREFULLY IDENTIFIED NEEDS,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID HONG KONG WAS +FORTUNATE TO HAVE SO MANY OF ITS CITIZENS WHO ARE ALWAYS SO GENEROUS WITH THEIR TIME AND MONEY IN SERVING THE COMMUNITY.

+THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH THE ROTARIAN SPIRIT OF 'SERVICE ABOVE SELF.' IT IS A PROUD MOTTO. LET IT NEVER FAIL,+ HE SAID.

HE CONGRATULATED THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WEST FOR REALISING YET ANOTHER AND MOST WORTHWHILE PROJECT AND WISHED ITS MEMBERS SUCCESS. +I WOULD THANK YOU AGAIN MOST SINCERELY FOR THE SPLENDID VESSEL,+ SIR MURRAY TOLD THEM.

THE 14-METRE LONG VESSEL WAS BUILT BY THE HIP HING CHEUNG SHIPYARD, AND COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR. IT HAS SINCE THEN BEEN OUTFITTED WITH MEDICAL FACILITIES BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

IT WILL BE ADDED TO THE OTHER TWO MEDICAL LAUNCHES IN SERVICE TO THE OUTLYING ISLANDS AND DISTRICTS, PROVIDING MORE CLINICAL SESSIONS FOR THE PEOPLE IN THOSE AREAS, AND HELPING RELIEVE THE TIGHT SCHEDULE NOW COVERED BY THE OTHER TWO VESSELS.

THE 'ROTARY' WILL MAKE ITS FIRST CALL TO THE OUTLYING DISTRICTS ON MA WAN AND TUNG CHUNG ON MONDAY MORNING.

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HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JANUARY

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FOR JANUARY 1982, VALUED AT \$19 581 MILLION, DECREASED BY 4 PER CENT COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1981, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT REPORTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECLINED BY 2 PER CENT TO \$6 239 MILLION, IMPORTS DECLINED BY 6 PER CENT TO \$10 023 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS DECLINED MARGINALLY TO \$3 319 MILLION. DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER SHOWED A DECREASE OF 1 PER CENT.

HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE TWO PERIODS ARE NOT STRICTLY COMPARABLE. THIS YEAR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PUBLIC HOLIDAYS FELL IN JANUARY, WHEREAS LAST YEAR THEY FELL IN FEBRUARY, THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT.

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS WERE AS FOLLOWS :-

	<u>JAN. 1982</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>JAN. 1981</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>INCREASE/ DECREASE</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u> <u>CHANGE</u>
USA	2 206	2 222	- 16	- 1
UK	566	555	+ 11	+ 2
FR OF GERMANY	545	668	-123	-18
CHINA	293	202	+ 91	+45
AUSTRALIA	284	213	+ 71	+33
JAPAN	229	198	+ 31	+16
CANADA	166	163	+ 3	+ 2
SINGAPORE	142	147	- 5	- 3
NETHERLANDS	140	150	- 10	- 7
SWITZERLAND	118	116	+ 2	+ 2

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO USA DROPPED SLIGHTLY BY 1 PER CENT. DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MAJOR COMMODITIES SUCH AS ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND PARTS FOR COMPUTERS (BY \$61 MILLION OR 37 PER CENT) AND CLOTHING (BY \$106 MILLION OR 11 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (BY \$86 MILLION OR 83 PER CENT).

/INCREASES WERE

INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (BY \$31 MILLION OR 183 PER CENT) AND TEXTILES (BY \$4 MILLION OR 17 PER CENT). DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS WATCHES AND CLOCKS, DECLINED BY \$8 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT, AND \$10 MILLION OR 34 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY.

MOST COMMODITIES EXPORTED TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY DECLINED IN VALUE, INCLUDING WATCHES AND CLOCKS (DECLINED BY \$10 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT) AND CLOTHING (DECLINED BY \$99 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT). DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES INCREASED STEADILY (BY \$5 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT).

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT TO CHINA (BY \$49 MILLION OR 146 PER CENT) AND IN THE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING TO AUSTRALIA (BY \$15 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT, AND \$13 MILLION OR 22 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY).

AN ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION IS PRESENTED BELOW :

	<u>JAN. 1982</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>JAN. 1981</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>INCREASE/ DECREASE</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</u>
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	2 279	2 457	-178	- 7
MISCELLANEOUS MANU- FACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS)	1 059	890	+169	+19
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	537	561	-24	- 4
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY TRANSISTORS AND DIODES AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE APPLIANCES)	460	420	+40	+10
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	433	422	+11	+ 3
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	391	399	-8	- 2

/THE CHANGES

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM THE TEN MAJOR SOURCES ARE SUMMARISED AS FOLLOWS :

	<u>JAN. 1982</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>JAN. 1981</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>INCREASE/ DECREASE</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</u>
CHINA	2 371	2 227	+144	+ 6
JAPAN	1 913	2 254	-341	-15
USA	1 127	1 120	+ 7	+ 1
TAIWAN	775	914	-139	-15
SINGAPORE	768	973	-205	-21
UK	492	470	+ 22	+ 5
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	379	432	- 53	-12
FR OF GERMANY	242	299	- 57	-19
SWITZERLAND	171	180	- 9	- 5
AUSTRALIA	152	160	- 8	- 5

CHINA OVERTOOK JAPAN AND BECAME HONG KONG'S LARGEST SUPPLIER. INCREASES WERE RECORDED MAINLY IN CLOTHING (BY \$24 MILLION OR 10 PER CENT), FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, AND THEIR PREPARATIONS (BY \$16 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT), LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD (BY \$15 MILLION OR 10 PER CENT) AND MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS (BY \$15 MILLION OR 14 PER CENT).

LOCAL DEMAND FOR JAPANESE GOODS DECLINED. DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$60 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT), IRON AND STEEL (BY \$88 MILLION OR 50 PER CENT) AS WELL AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$109 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT). HOWEVER, INCREASES WERE NOTED FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$31 MILLION OR 16 PER CENT), AND MACHINERY SPECIALISED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES (BY \$23 MILLION OR 39 PER CENT).

INCREASES IN IMPORTS FROM THE US WERE LARGELY OF TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES (BY \$46 MILLION OR 104 PER CENT), AS WELL AS ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$34 MILLION OR 39 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE IMPORTS OF OFFICE MACHINERY AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$26 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT) AND ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS (BY \$51 MILLION OR 55 PER CENT).

CONSIDERABLE DECREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE IMPORTS OF TEXTILES FROM TAIWAN (BY \$90 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT), AND OF PETROLEUM AND RELATED PRODUCTS FROM SINGAPORE (BY \$195 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT).

THE FOLLOWING TABLE ILLUSTRATES THE MORE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY COMMODITY SECTION :-

	JAN. 1982 (HK\$ MN.)	JAN. 1981 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE PRODUCTS, DIAMONDS, IRON AND STEEL, AND PAPER)	2 720	3 223	-503	-16
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	2 134	2 254	-120	- 5
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS, ARTICLES OF APPAREL)	1 572	1 545	+ 27	+ 2
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD	1 253	1 186	+ 67	+ 6
MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS	970	990	-20	- 2
CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS	661	775	-114	-15

SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO USA (BY \$49 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT), INDONESIA (BY \$19 MILLION OR 7 PER CENT) JAPAN (BY \$19 MILLION OR 9 PER CENT), PHILIPPINES (BY \$19 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT), SAUDI ARABIA (BY \$14 MILLION OR 48 PER CENT), AND KUWAIT (BY \$14 MILLION OR 221 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECLINES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA (BY \$19 MILLION OR 3 PER CENT), NIGERIA (BY \$20 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT), FRANCE (BY \$26 MILLION OR 59 PER CENT) AND UK (BY \$115 MILLION OR 74 PER CENT).

SOME COMMODITIES RE-EXPORTED THROUGH HONG KONG EXHIBITED STRONG GROWTH, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$59 MILLION OR 51 PER CENT), VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY \$36 MILLION OR 67 PER CENT) AND MANUFACTURES OF METAL (BY \$32 MILLION OR 51 PER CENT). DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE RE-EXPORTS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$49 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT), AND METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY \$148 MILLION OR 95 PER CENT).

THE JANUARY 1982 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS - SUMMARY+, BEING A SUMMARY REPORT ON HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN JANUARY 1982, WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK\$5 PER COPY.

/A MORE

A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, +HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE+, WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE MONTH'S IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS, WILL BE PUBLISHED IN EARLY APRIL AND WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK\$10 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT BASKERVILLE HOUSE, HONG KONG (TEL. NO.: 5-214375).

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FIRE SAFETY PLAN FOR FOOD PREMISES

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO LEGISLATE AGAINST OPERATORS WHO OPEN FOOD PREMISES FOR BUSINESS WITHOUT HAVING MET ALL FIRE SAFETY CONDITIONS.

THE PROPOSAL IS FOR OPERATORS TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE FROM THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT FIRST BEFORE THEY CAN BE GRANTED A FOOD BUSINESS LICENCE BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT THE USD WOULD PROCEED WITH THE PROCESSING OF AN APPLICATION FOR A FOOD BUSINESS LICENCE IF THERE WAS NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE BY OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

DETAILED REQUIREMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENTS WERE SORTED OUT SEPARATELY BETWEEN THEM AND THE APPLICANT.

THIS COULD LEAD TO SITUATIONS WHERE FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS WERE GIVEN A LICENCE BY THE USD BEFORE THEY HAD REMOVED ALL FIRE HAZARDS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ALTHOUGH FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES AND SUMMONSES CAN BE ISSUED AGAINST OFFENDERS, THERE CAN BE A PERIOD OF TIME BEFORE THE DEFICIENCIES ARE MADE GOOD AND THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC IS SAFEGUARDED, HE SAID.

UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY, THE AUTHORITIES WILL BE EMPOWERED TO MAKE REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN AGAINST FIRE IN FOOD BUSINESS PREMISES.

IF THE BILL IS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, REGULATIONS AND BY-LAWS WILL BE INTRODUCED TO REQUIRE APPLICANTS FOR FOOD BUSINESS LICENCES TO PROVE THAT THEY HAVE SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES BEFORE THEY ARE GRANTED A FOOD BUSINESS LICENCE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1982

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BUSY YEAR FOR LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE
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A TOTAL OF \$73 MILLION WAS PAID TO 20 058 WORKERS LAST YEAR BY EMPLOYERS IN SETTLEMENT OF LABOUR-MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE (LRS) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

OF THE TOTAL \$21 786 992, OR ABOUT 29.5 PER CENT, WAS FOR SEVERANCE PAYMENTS TO 4 317 EMPLOYEES RENDERED REDUNDANT BY OPERATIONAL OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE REMAINING SUM OF \$52 037 021 WAS PAID AS ARREARS OF WAGES, OR WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE, STATUTORY HOLIDAY PAY, BONUSÉS AND OTHER PAYMENTS DUE TO 20 058 EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING THE 4 317 WHO RECEIVED SEVERANCE PAYMENTS.

IN THE SAME YEAR THE LRS HANDLED 184 TRADE DISPUTES, OF WHICH 149, OR MORE THAN 80.9 PER CENT, WERE SETTLED WITH THE HELP OF THE SERVICE.

THE LRS ALSO PROVIDED CONCILIATION FOR 15 088 CLAIMS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE OR THE TERMS OF CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT, SETTLED 8 344 OR SOME 55.3 PER CENT OF THEM, AND REFERRED MOST OF THE REMAINDER TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL FOR DECISION.

THE LRS INVESTIGATED 322 MAJOR COMPLAINTS ABOUT ALLEGED BREACHES OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, SUCH AS FAILURE TO PROVIDE REST DAYS, HOLIDAYS WITH PAY, ANNUAL LEAVE WITH PAY AND IMPROPER DEDUCTIONS OF WORKERS' WAGES.

DURING 1981, THERE WERE 49 WORK STOPPAGES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, RESULTING IN 15 319 WORKING DAYS LOST, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 7.18 DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES.

+THE AVERAGE FIGURE WAS CONSIDERED LOW BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND WAS A POSITIVE INDICATOR OF GOOD LABOUR RELATIONS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE LRS ALSO HANDLED 226 290 ENQUIRIES AND CONSULTATIONS, COMPARED WITH 157 348 IN 1980, MOST OF THEM CONCERNED WITH PROVISIONS IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

THIS INCREASE SHOWED THAT BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES ATTACHED MORE IMPORTANCE TO LABOUR RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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ANCESTRAL HALL RESURRECTED IN NEW VILLAGE
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TODAY IS A BIG DAY FOR THE MORE THAN 100 VILLAGERS OF THE LI CLAN IN TSOK POK HANG VILLAGE, AS A NEW ANCESTRAL HALL HAS BEEN OPENED IN IT. THE CEREMONY WAS PERFORMED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, DR PATRICK HASE.

TSOK POK HANG WAS CLEARED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO UNDER THE VILLAGE REMOVAL SCHEME TO MAKE WAY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN, AND REBUILT BY THE GOVERNMENT ON A NEARBY SITE.

THE NEW VILLAGE, HANDED OVER TO THE ORIGINAL RESIDENTS TWO MONTHS AGO, INCLUDES 29 SMALL HOUSES WHICH COST ABOUT \$11 MILLION.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE TRADITIONAL VILLAGE LIFE IS NOT DISRUPTED, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO RESURRECTED AND BUILT THE LI ANCESTRAL HALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NEW VILLAGE.

TODAY'S OPENING OF THE ANCESTRAL HALL MARKED THE COMPLETION OF THE VILLAGE'S REMOVAL SCHEME.

TSOK POK HANG IS THE FIFTH SHA TIN VILLAGE RESITED. THE OTHERS ARE KWAI TEI, PAT TSZ WO, KAK TIN TSUEN, KUNG MIU AND FUI YIU HA.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR WAI HON-LEUNG, THE VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE, MR LI SHEK-YUNG, AND LOCAL LEADER, MR NG CHAN-LAM.

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HIGH CLASS TAI PO RESIDENTIAL SITE FOR TENDER
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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR A SITE IN TAI PO TO BE DEVELOPED INTO A HIGH CLASS RESIDENTIAL AREA.

THE SITE, MEASURING 6.48 HECTARES, IS LOCATED NEAR TAI PO KAU COMMANDING A GOOD VIEW OF THE TOLO HARBOUR.

BUILDINGS TO BE ERECTED ON THE SITE SHOULD NOT BE MORE THAN TWO STOREYS, AND THE PLOT RATIO IS 0.3.

THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER WILL BE REQUIRED TO MEET A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$49 MILLION WITHIN FOUR YEARS.

APART FROM RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, SOME COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WILL BE PERMITTED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY GOVERNMENT.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE TENDER BOX AT THE ENTRANCE HALL ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (MAIN WING), LOWER ALBERT ROAD, BEFORE NOON ON MAY 21.

PARTICULARS AND TENDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS AND THE EIGHT DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1982

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BUILDINGS TO BE RESUMED FOR MTR WORK
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THREE FOUR-STOREY BUILDINGS IN NORTH POINT WILL BE RESUMED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MTR ISLAND LINE.

THE PROPERTIES, BUILT IN EARLY POST-WAR PERIOD, ARE LOCATED AT 458-478A KING'S ROAD AND 10-16 SHU KUK STREET WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED FOR BUILDING THE NORTH POINT STATION CONCOURSE.

OWNERS OF PROPERTIES AT THIS SITE HAD BEEN GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER INTO JOINT REDEVELOPMENT WITH THE MTRC, AND ALL BUT TWO OWNERS AT 464 KING'S ROAD AND 12 SHU KUK STREET ADVISED THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO DO SO. THEY WERE MADE FULLY AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR PROPERTIES WOULD BE RESUMED.

A RESUMPTION ORDER TO THIS EFFECT, MADE UNDER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE, WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE REMAINING TWO OWNERS HAVE AGREED TO MAKE THEIR SITE AVAILABLE FOR REDEVELOPMENT AND RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION WITHIN THE MTRC'S TIME SCALE.

ABOUT 600 PEOPLE FROM 215 FAMILIES IN THE PROPERTIES TO BE RESUMED WILL BE AFFECTED. THEY WILL BE OFFERED PUBLIC HOUSING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S POLICY. STATUTORY COMPENSATION WILL BE PAID TO THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE.

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NT BUS ROUTE CHANGES
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KOWLOON MOTOR BUS ROUTE NO. 65, FROM KADOORIE FARM TO TAI PO MARKET, WILL BEGIN OPERATION FROM MONDAY (MARCH 22).

THE ROUTE WILL RUN AT 25-MINUTE FREQUENCIES DURING PEAK PERIODS ON WEEKDAYS AT A FLAT FARE OF 70 CENTS.

HOWEVER, KMB ROUTE NO. 293, BETWEEN KOWLOON CITY FERRY AND TAI MONG TSAI, WILL SUSPEND ITS SERVICE FROM SUNDAY (MARCH 21) BECAUSE A SIMILAR SERVICE IS PROVIDED BY KMB ROUTE NO. 93R, WHICH OPERATES BETWEEN CHOI HUNG AND PAK TAM CHUNG.

KMB ROUTE NO. 250, BETWEEN TSIM SHA TSUI AND YUEN LONG EAST, WILL ALSO SUSPEND OPERATION FROM SUNDAY (MARCH 21) BECAUSE OF LOW PASSENGER PATRONAGE.

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NEW COMPENSATION RATES FOR RESUMED NT LAND
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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE REVISED COMPENSATION RATES FOR LAND RESUMED IN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

FROM APRIL 1, OWNERS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND RESUMED WILL BE COMPENSATED AT THE FULL RATE OF \$71 PER SQ. FT., AND FOR BUILDING LAND AT THE FULL RATE OF \$145 PER SQ. FT.

THE NEW RATES, EFFECTIVE UP TO SEPTEMBER 30 WHEN A FURTHER REVIEW WILL BE CARRIED OUT, WILL ALSO FORM THE BASIS OF THE PERCENTAGE DEDUCTION FOR COMPENSATION FOR LAND RESUMED OUTSIDE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT AREAS.

THE COMPENSATION RATES WERE FIXED AT \$27 PER SQ. FT. FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND AND \$55 PER SQ. FT. FOR BUILDING LAND IN JULY 1978, AS RECOMMENDED IN A REPORT BY THE WORKING GROUP ON NEW TERRITORIES URBAN LAND ACQUISITIONS HEADED BY SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN.

SINCE THEN, THE RATES HAD BEEN INCREASED, THROUGH HALF-YEARLY REVIEWS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING GROUP, TO THE PREVAILING RATES OF \$103 PER SQ. FT. FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND AND \$220 PER SQ. FT. FOR BUILDING LAND, WHICH HAVE REMAINED UNCHANGED FOR THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

THE RATES ARE BEING TIED TO LAND VALUES, AND THE DROP IN THE COMPENSATION FOR THE CURRENT REVIEW REFLECTS THE DECREASE IN LAND VALUES OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS.

THE COMPENSATION RATE FOR OLD SCHEDULE AGRICULTURAL LOTS IN NEW KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND IS EQUIVALENT TO THE N.T. RATE PLUS 10 PER CENT AND THUS WILL ALSO BE REVISED TO \$78.1 PER SQ. FT. FROM APRIL 1.

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TWO INDUSTRIAL LOTS SOLD
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TWO INDUSTRIAL LOTS IN KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION WERE SOLD AT AN AUCTION CONDUCTED BY THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE IN THE SHOUSON THEATRE, ARTS CENTRE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE LARGER LOT, MEASURING ABOUT 3 509 SQUARE METRES, WAS SOLD TO WOKING INVESTMENT LIMITED FOR \$18 MILLION OR \$5 129.67 PER SQUARE METRE.

THE OTHER SITE, MEASURING ABOUT 1 696 SQUARE METRES, WAS SOLD TO SHU LIN INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED FOR \$10.4 MILLION OR \$6 132.08 PER SQUARE METRE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1982

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NEW SHEUNG WAN TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS
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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN A NUMBER OF ROAD SECTIONS IN SHEUNG WAN FROM MONDAY (MARCH 22) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MTR ISLAND LINE.

THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * A SECTION OF WESTBOUND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL BETWEEN MORRISON STREET AND RUMSEY STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A PROHIBITED ZONE.
- * A SECTION OF EASTBOUND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL BETWEEN HILLIER STREET AND RUMSEY STREET AND A SECTION OF HILLIER STREET BETWEEN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND WING LOK STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED AS 24-HOUR PUBLIC LIGHT BUS CLEARWAYS.
- * A SECTION OF RUMSEY STREET BETWEEN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY.
- * THE PUBLIC LIGHT BUS PROHIBITED ZONE IN HILLIER STREET BETWEEN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND WING LOK STREET WILL BE RESCINDED.

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EARLY-MORNING ROAD CLOSURE
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THE SLIP ROAD FROM QUEENSWAY TO COTTON TREE DRIVE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5 AM ON SUNDAY (MARCH 21) FOR CABLE RENEWAL WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ALONG WESTBOUND QUEENSWAY HEADING FOR MID-LEVELS WILL BE DIVERTED VIA QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, PEDDER STREET, CHATER ROAD, MURRAY ROAD AND COTTON TREE DRIVE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1982

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CHINESE MUSIC WEEK PROMOTION
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FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED ON THE PROMOTION OF CHINESE MUSIC THROUGH A SERIES OF LECTURES ON ASPECTS OF MANAGEMENT, CONDUCTING AND HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY CHINESE MUSIC.

THESE ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH THE HIGHLY-SUCCESSFUL 'CHINESE MUSIC WEEK', SPONSORED BY THE YUET WAH MUSIC COMPANY, WILL CULMINATE IN TWO INTERESTING EVENTS TO BE HELD AT THE WEEKEND.

TOMORROW (SATURDAY), A SYMPOSIUM ON 'THE FUTURE OF CHINESE MUSIC COMPOSITION IN HONG KONG' WILL BE ORGANISED IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM AT 7.30 PM.

CHAIRING THE SYMPOSIUM WILL BE MR TONG LEUNG-TAK, TRAINING OFFICER OF THE CHINESE MUSIC DISCIPLINE OF THE MUSIC OFFICE, WITH MR LAW WEI-LUN, MR GOK KWONG-YIU AND MR TAM CHI-BUN AS GUEST SPEAKERS.

DISCUSSION TOPICS WILL INCLUDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHINESE MUSIC IN HONG KONG, AND THE PROMOTION OF CHINESE MUSIC COMPOSITION. THE DISCUSSIONS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND SHOULD PROVE OF INTEREST TO MUSIC STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ALIKE.

THE FINAL EVENT OF THE 'CHINESE MUSIC WEEK' WILL BE A GALA CONCERT ON SUNDAY, AT 8 PM AT KOWLOON CARITAS CENTRE. THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE PERFORMANCES BY NINE AMATEUR CHINESE ORCHESTRAS AND WILL FEATURE A GUEST PERFORMANCE BY CHINESE INSTRUMENTAL INSTRUCTORS OF THE MUSIC OFFICE, WITH THE COMPOSER, PROFESSOR LIN SHENG-SHIH OFFICIATING AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY.

ADMISSION TO BOTH EVENTS IS FREE. FOR ENQUIRIES, TELEPHONE 3-7561328.

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