



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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EXPO PROPOSAL: RESERVATIONS OVER PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES

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AFTER DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT ON THE PROPOSAL THAT HONG KONG SHOULD HOLD A WORLD EXPOSITION IN 1997, THE ADMINISTRATION'S WORKING GROUP, WHILE NOTING THE POSITIVE FEATURES IDENTIFIED, STILL HAS CERTAIN RESERVATIONS OVER PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES.

THESE RESERVATIONS INCLUDE WHETHER RESOURCES SHOULD BE DIVERTED FROM ESSENTIAL PROJECTS IN ORDER TO STAGE EXPO AND THE ECONOMIC EFFORT OF DOING SO, IMPLICATIONS FOR PLANNED PROJECTS AT THE SITES SUGGESTED BY THE CONSULTANTS; AND THE FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF THE PROJECT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BEAR IN MIND THAT IN THE PERIOD UP TO AND BEYOND 1997, HONG KONG IS LIKELY TO BE HEAVILY COMMITTED TO A NUMBER OF MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS WHICH WOULD BE OF LONG-LASTING BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

THESE PROJECTS ARE:

- THE NEW AIRPORT.
- MAJOR NEW PORT FACILITIES.
- THE TRUNK ROAD, BRIDGES AND TUNNELS NECESSARY TO SERVE THE NEW FACILITIES.
- THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 15-YEAR PLAN TO BUILD 960,000 NEW HOMES BY THE YEAR 2001.
- MAJOR NEW RECLAMATIONS AROUND THE HARBOUR.
- A MAJOR ROAD ROUTE FROM THE CHINESE BORDER TO HONG KONG ISLAND VIA WEST KOWLOON.
- SUBSTANTIAL WORKS FOR SEWAGE AND FLOOD PROTECTION AS PART OF A MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME.

"THESE PROGRAMMES WILL FULLY STRETCH THE MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT AND LABOUR RESOURCES OF THE TERRITORY.

"WHILE EXPO IS AN ATTRACTIVE IDEA IN PRINCIPLE, THE MAJOR QUESTION WHICH MUST BE ASKED IS WHETHER IT WOULD BE TO THE OVERALL BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO DIVERT FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER RESOURCES FROM THESE ESSENTIAL PROJECTS TO AN EXPO WHICH, HOWEVER DESIRABLE, COULD NOT BE REGARDED AS ESSENTIAL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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ON THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF BUILDING AN EXPO THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID, "IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT INCLUDING LAND FORMATION, CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURAL AND SERVICE SUPPORT INCLUDING HOTELS WOULD BE IN THE REGION OF SEVEN BILLION HONG KONG DOLLARS.

"THIS EXPENDITURE COULD PUT CONSIDERABLE STRAIN ON SPECIFIC SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY SUCH AS THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICES INDUSTRIES, ESPECIALLY IF THE ECONOMY WERE ALREADY OPERATING CLOSE TO FULL EMPLOYMENT.

"EVEN IF THERE WERE SPARE CAPACITY AT THE TIME, THE EXTRA SPENDING COULD BE MORE USEFULLY EMPLOYED TO PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE GEARED TO HONG KONG'S LONG TERM NEEDS."

AS FOR THE POSSIBLE SITES SUGGESTED BY THE CONSULTANTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WERE INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES IN FITTING EXPO INTO THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR CENTRAL OR WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATIONS.

HE SAID THE MAIN PLANNED PERMANENT USES OF THE CENTRAL RECLAMATION WOULD BE THE SALE OF COMMERCIAL LAND SITES FOR WHICH THERE WOULD BE VIRTUALLY NO OTHER SOURCES.

"IN WEST KOWLOON, MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO LIVING CONDITIONS IN ADJACENT DENSELY CROWDED AREAS WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED.

"IN NEITHER OF THESE AREAS WOULD THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM BEING PLANNED BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THE HEAVY INCREASE IN TRAFFIC GENERATED BY AN EXPO," HE SAID.

AS FOR JUNK BAY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO BRING FORWARD THE TIMING OF THE ENTIRE RECLAMATION PROJECT IN ORDER TO MAKE AVAILABLE AN EXPO SITE.

"THIS WOULD MEAN BRINGING FORWARD THE WHOLE OF THE JUNK BAY PHASE II DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING AN MTR LINK, LAND FORMATION AND PUBLIC HOUSING.

"THE EXPO WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE MTR AND THE MTR WOULD NOT BE VIABLE UNLESS THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL POPULATION IN RESIDENCE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EXPO.

"THE COSTS OF A CRASH PROGRAMME TO ACHIEVE THIS RESCHEDULING WOULD BE VERY LARGE AND IN ORDER TO FIT IT INTO THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, OTHER ITEMS WITH A CONSIDERABLY HIGHER PRIORITY SUCH AS ROADS AND SEWAGE PROGRAMMES WOULD HAVE TO BE DEFERRED," HE SAID.

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THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE ADMINISTRATION ALSO HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF THE PROJECT AS CONCEIVED BY THE CONSULTANTS.

HE SAID THE CONSULTANTS ASSUMED THAT 85 PER CENT OF THE LOCAL POPULATION WOULD PAY AN AVERAGE OF 2.5 VISITS TO EXPO PER PERSON.

"THIS FIGURE IS BASED ON THE AVERAGE LOCAL ATTENDANCE FIGURE FOR EXPOS HELD ELSEWHERE, BUT TAKES NO ACCOUNT OF THE FACT THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE WORK A SIGNIFICANTLY LONGER WEEK THAN THOSE IN OTHER COUNTRIES, AND THAT THEIR LEISURE TIME IS CORRESPONDINGLY REDUCED.

"THIS TOGETHER WITH AN AVERAGE COST OF ENTRY OF HK\$80 PER PERSON CASTS DOUBT ON THE ATTENDANCE FIGURE FOR LOCAL VISITORS PUT FORWARD BY THE CONSULTANTS," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE CONSULTANTS ALSO ASSUMED THAT NEARLY THREE MILLION VISITORS WOULD COME TO HONG KONG FROM CHINA FOR EXPO AND THAT EACH OF THEM WOULD VISIT EXPO 2.5 TIMES.

"WE HAVE RESERVATIONS AS TO WHETHER THE IMMIGRATION FACILITIES AT THE BORDER CAN COPE WITH A DAILY AVERAGE OF AROUND 15,000 CHINESE VISITORS ENTERING FROM CHINA, BEARING IN MIND THAT AT PRESENT THE FACILITIES ARE DESIGNED TO COPE WITH AN AVERAGE OF 200 VISITS PER DAY ON TWO-WAY PERMITS AND ARE SEVERELY STRETCHED IF THAT NUMBER REACHES 250.

"IT IS ALSO UNCERTAIN WHETHER SUCH VERY LARGE NUMBERS OF VISITORS WOULD COME TO HONG KONG FROM CHINA IN 1997.

"IF THE NUMBER OF VISITORS SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED THE PROJECT WOULD NOT BE VIABLE. A HEAVY FINANCIAL BURDEN POSSIBLY RUNNING INTO BILLIONS OF DOLLARS WOULD FALL ON THE SAR IN THE FIRST YEAR OF ITS EXISTENCE," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE CAPACITY OF KAI TAK AIRPORT WOULD BE FULLY UTILISED BY THE MID-90'S AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OPPORTUNITY TO BRING IN ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL OVERSEAS VISITORS.

"THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF HAVING A NEW AIRPORT FULLY OPERATIONAL BY 1997," HE SAID.

IN VIEW OF THESE CONSTRAINTS, HE SAID THE IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ELEMENT OF AN EXPO MIGHT BE LOST.

"INDEED, IF A LARGE NUMBER OF REGULAR VISITORS AND BUSINESSMEN WERE PREVENTED FROM COMING TO HONG KONG BECAUSE AN EXPO WAS BEING HELD, THE PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPACT COULD BE QUITE NEGATIVE."

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THIS IN TURN MIGHT ERODE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS TO TRADE AND CULTURAL LINKS WHICH THE CONSULTANTS HAVE IDENTIFIED, HE POINTED OUT.

AS FOR SUGGESTIONS THAT HONG KONG SHOULD REGISTER A BID WITH THE BIE BY NOVEMBER 20 AND THEN CONDUCT A FULL FEASIBILITY STUDY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS WOULD BE A RATIONAL WAY TO PROCEED IF THE DOUBTS OVER THE PROPOSAL TO HOLD AN EXPO COULD BE RESOLVED BY FURTHER STUDY.

"BUT IN THE VIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION, THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION IS WHETHER PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO EXPO AHEAD OF OTHER ESSENTIAL PROJECTS. THIS IS A QUESTION OF OVERALL JUDGEMENT AND CANNOT BE ANSWERED BY FURTHER STUDIES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO REGISTER A BID UNLESS THE PROJECT IS IN THE OVERALL INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG."

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN ON WHETHER OR NOT TO REGISTER A BID WITH THE BIE.

"THE FINAL DECISION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AFTER WEIGHING UP ALL THE MANY FACTORS INVOLVED." FULL ACCOUNT WILL BE TAKEN OF POINTS MADE DURING THE LEGCO DEBATE, HE ADDED.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE INITIATIVE OF THOSE CONCERNED IN BRINGING SUCH AN IMAGINATIVE PROPOSAL FORWARD WHICH HAS GENERATED MUCH ENTHUSIASM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

APART FROM THE POSITIVE FEATURES OF THE PROPOSAL AS IDENTIFIED BY THE CONSULTANTS, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD SEE FURTHER POSITIVE RESULTS WHICH MIGHT FLOW FROM HOLDING SUCH AN EVENT.

THESE ARE:

- THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS WORLD ATTENTION ON HONG KONG AT A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN ITS HISTORY.
- HONG KONG WOULD BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE ITS HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY THROUGH ITS ABILITY TO STAGE A WORLD EVENT ON ITS OWN.
- THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROJECT HONG KONG AS A DYNAMIC, PROSPEROUS AND EFFICIENT CITY.

"BUT IN THE INTERESTS OF BALANCED DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT, THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED SHOULD ALSO BE PUT TO THE PUBLIC," HE ADDED.

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HK AN ATTRACTIVE LOCATION FOR TELECOM SERVICES

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HONG KONG'S GOOD STRATEGIC LOCATION, ITS CLOSE ECONOMIC TIES WITH CHINA, AND ITS POSITION AS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTRE MAKE IT AN IDEAL MARKET PLACE TO LAUNCH AND EXPAND INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, AT THE OPENING OF THE BRITISH TELECOM FAR EAST REGIONAL OFFICE TODAY (THURSDAY).

AS A RAPIDLY GROWING MARKET FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES, HONG KONG HAD BEEN WELL SERVED BY ITS OWN TELEPHONE AND TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM, SIR DAVID SAID.

BUT A HEALTHY DOSE OF COMPETITION COULD SPUR INNOVATION AND PROVIDE A WIDER RANGE OF SERVICES FOR BOTH THE DOMESTIC SUBSCRIBERS AND BUSINESS CONSUMERS.

"IT IS FOR THIS MAIN REASON THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO INTRODUCE A NEW CABLE NETWORK TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION FACILITIES FOR COMPETITIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AS WELL AS A NEW SOURCE OF TV ENTERTAINMENT IN THE FORM OF CABLE TV," HE SAID.

"COUPLED WITH OUR HIGH POPULATION DENSITY AND UNIQUE CONCENTRATION OF DENSE HOUSING IN SMALL AREAS, WE OFFER A POTENTIALLY COST-EFFECTIVE AND PROFITABLE MARKET IN CABLE TV AND OTHER COMPETITIVE TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES."

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO ENGAGE THE INTEREST OF INTERNATIONAL FIRMS.

"THERE ARE ALREADY SERIOUS EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND WE HOPE THESE WILL LEAD TO FORMAL TENDERS IN DUE COURSE."

SIR DAVID ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WAS ALREADY THE MAJOR PRODUCER AND EXPORTER OF TV PROGRAMMES TO CHINESE COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD.

"WE HAVE A WELL-RECOGNISED POOL OF LOCAL TALENT IN TV PRODUCTION," HE SAID.

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PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY -
FINANCING AND INSTITUTIONAL STUDY

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A CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT HAS RECENTLY BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND SCHRODERS ASIA LTD.

UNDER THE AGREEMENT, SCHRODERS WILL PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT WITH FINANCIAL ADVICE ON IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (PADS) STUDY, WHICH IS DUE TO REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"SCHRODERS WILL FORMULATE A FINANCING PLAN FOR THE PADS RECOMMENDATIONS, SEEK TO IDENTIFY THE OPTIMAL DIVISION BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT, AND ADVISE ON SUITABLE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PADS RECOMMENDATIONS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"AS THE PADS STUDY WILL PRODUCE PROPOSALS OF THE VERY GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE ECONOMIC AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROFESSIONAL ADVICE ON HOW THESE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS CAN BEST BE FUNDED, SO AS TO MAXIMISE PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT AND MINIMISE THE BURDEN ON GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL RESOURCES."

THE FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS WILL WORK UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

THEIR STUDY WILL BE A 10-MONTH ONE, WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE PADS CONSULTANTS AND AIMING TO REPORT TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, CONCURRENT WITH PADS, IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

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OVERALL WASTAGE RATES IN GOVERNMENT NOT
NEARLY AS HIGH AS IN PRIVATE SECTOR

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THE OVERALL WASTAGE RATES IN THE GOVERNMENT ARE NOT NEARLY AS HIGH AS THEY ARE UNDERSTOOD TO BE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, SAID THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR HARNAM GREWAL, TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, MR GREWAL CITED FIGURES WHICH HE SAID WERE ON THE LOW SIDE WHEN COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR LARGE COMPANIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"TAKING THE CIVIL SERVICE AS A WHOLE, THE ANNUAL RESIGNATION RATE 10 YEARS AGO WAS ABOUT THREE PER CENT. IT HAS BEEN LESS THAN TWO PER CENT DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS," HE SAID.

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"AT THE DIRECTORATE LEVEL, THE RATE IS MUCH LOWER. THE NUMBER OF RESIGNATIONS OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS WAS 13 IN 1985/86, THREE IN 1986/87 AND SEVEN IN 1987/88.

"THIS IS ABOUT SEVEN OFFICERS A YEAR OR, AGAINST A TOTAL DIRECTORATE STRENGTH OF ABOUT 1,000, 0.7 PER CENT PER ANNUM."

AT THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND SENIOR PROFESSIONAL LEVEL WHICH HAS A TOTAL STRENGTH OF ABOUT 1,800, MR GREWAL SAID, THE FIGURES WERE 24 IN 1985/86, 18 IN 1986/87 AND 28 IN 1987/88, OR ABOUT 23 OFFICERS OR 1.3 PER CENT PER ANNUM.

"ALTHOUGH THERE TEND TO BE MORE RESIGNATIONS FROM THE LOWER RANKS, THE NUMBER IS STILL FAR FROM BEING SIGNIFICANT," HE SAID.

"THE TOTAL HAS AVERAGED ABOUT 3,000 PER YEAR OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS AND REPRESENTS 1.7 PER CENT OF TOTAL STRENGTH.

"THE OVERALL WASTAGE RATE, I.E. INCLUDING RETIREMENTS, ETC, HOWEVER, WAS JUST OVER FOUR PER CENT AT 7,400 IN 1987/88."

HOWEVER, MR GREWAL POINTED OUT THAT FOR CERTAIN GRADES THE GOVERNMENT'S WASTAGE PROBLEM WAS MORE SERIOUS THAN THE AVERAGES SUGGESTED AND HE CITED REPORTS IN THE CASE OF DOCTORS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND LOCAL COUNSEL.

"WE TAKE THESE PROBLEMS VERY SERIOUSLY AND NEED TO WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED TO FIND PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS TO THEM," HE SAID.

MR GREWAL SAID THAT SO FAR THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN A BASICALLY STABLE CIVIL SERVICE WITH LOW OVERALL WASTAGE RATES.

"VACANCIES CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION AND RETIREMENT OF A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS AT THE SENIOR LEVELS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN FILLED WITHOUT GREAT DIFFICULTY BY SUITABLE CANDIDATES THROUGH PROMOTION," HE SAID.

"THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT THEREFORE BEEN AFFECTED TO ANY SIGNIFICANT EXTENT."

ON PAY RELATED ISSUES, MR GREWAL SAID THE INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY, APPOINTED TO LOOK INTO THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE STAFF OVER THE 1986 PAY LEVEL SURVEY AND THE 1988 PAY ADJUSTMENT, WOULD BEGIN ITS WORK THIS MONTH.

"IT IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE 1988 PAY ADJUSTMENT TOWARDS THE END OF NOVEMBER, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A FINAL REPORT ON THE 1986 PAY LEVEL SURVEY IN SPRING 1989," HE SAID.

THE REVIEW COMMITTEE, APPOINTED BY THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IN MARCH, IS ALSO EXPECTED TO PUBLISH ITS FINAL REPORT ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND WORKLOAD OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES EARLY NEXT MONTH, HE ADDED.

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COMMISSIONER HEARS VIEWS FROM TAXI REPRESENTATIVES

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR JAMES SO, TODAY (THURSDAY) ATTENDED THE REGULAR CONFERENCE ON URBAN TAXI OPERATIONS TO HEAR TAXI REPRESENTATIVES' VIEWS ON PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AGAINST MALPRACTICES OF TAXI DRIVERS AND THE TRADE'S APPLICATION FOR A FARE INCREASE.

AT THE MEETING, MR SO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE RECENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST TAXI MALPRACTICES AND INVITED THE REPRESENTATIVES' VIEWS ON WHAT THE TRADE COULD DO AND WHAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD DO TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD AND LEVEL OF TAXI SERVICES.

MR SO SAID THAT THE PUBLIC COULD NOT TOLERATE SUCH MALPRACTICES AND UNLESS IMPROVEMENTS WERE FORTHCOMING, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER INTRODUCING NEW MEASURES AND TO STEP UP PROSECUTION AGAINST SUCH MALPRACTICES.

THE REPRESENTATIVES ATTRIBUTED THE PROBLEM OF REFUSING HIRES AND SELECTING PASSENGERS MAINLY TO LOW FARES, CONGESTION AND HIGH OPERATING COSTS.

THEY CALLED FOR PUBLICITY EFFORTS TO EDUCATE TAXI DRIVERS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING A REASONABLE SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE LAW AND PASSENGERS ABOUT THE RESTRICTIONS FACED BY TAXI DRIVERS.

THE REPRESENTATIVES ALSO HOPED THAT RESTRICTED AREAS POSING NO TRAFFIC PROBLEMS COULD BE RELAXED SO THAT TAXIS COULD PROVIDE A BETTER SERVICE.

THE POLICY ON THE ISSUE OF TAXI LICENCES WAS ALSO DISCUSSED, THOUGH REPRESENTATIVES RECOGNISED THAT THERE WAS NO EASY SOLUTION.

MR SO SAID HE APPRECIATED THE DIFFICULTIES TAXI DRIVERS HAD, BUT POINTED OUT THAT IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES THEY SHOULD NOT RESORT TO ILLEGAL PRACTICES.

THE REPRESENTATIVES GENERALLY FELT THAT THE PRESENT LEVEL OF TAXI FARES WAS ON THE LOW SIDE AND STRONGLY ADVOCATED AN EARLY APPROVAL OF THEIR FARE APPLICATION.

MR SO SAID HE WOULD REFLECT ALL THEIR VIEWS TO THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING NEXT TUESDAY (OCTOBER 18).

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\$534 MILLION SCHEME TO SAVE TOLO HARBOUR
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THE \$534 MILLION EFFLUENT EXPORT SCHEME TO SAVE TOLO HARBOUR COMMENCED TODAY (THURSDAY) WITH THE SIGNING OF A CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES, DR NIP KAM-FAN.

SIGNING ON BEHALF OF THE CONSULTANT WAS MR TERRY ROGERS, DIRECTOR OF BALFOURS INTERNATIONAL (ASIA) WHO WILL BE WORKING IN ASSOCIATION WITH CHARLES HASWELL AND PARTNERS (FAR EAST).

UNDER THE AGREEMENT, VALUED AT \$22 MILLION, THE CONSULTANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO DESIGN AND SUPERVISE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EFFLUENT EXPORT SCHEME.

THE PROJECT WILL INVOLVE EXPORTING EFFLUENT FROM SHA TIN AND TAI PO SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS TO KAI TAK NULLAH IN ORDER TO TOTALLY REMOVE ONE OF THE SOURCES OF NUTRIENT LOAD TO TOLO HARBOUR.

"DETERIORATION OF WATER QUALITY IN TOLO HARBOUR HAS REACHED A POINT WHEN ACTION IS REQUIRED URGENTLY TO PREVENT AN IRREVERSIBLE CONDITION BEING REACHED," DR NIP SAID.

DESIGN WORK WILL START IMMEDIATELY AND THE TUNNELLING CONTRACT FOR THE 7.5 KILOMETRES BY 2 METRES DIAMETER TUNNEL UNDER TATE'S CAIRN WILL START IN 18 MONTHS' TIME.

OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT INCLUDE PUMPING STATIONS AT TAI PO AND SHA TIN, A SUBMARINE PIPELINE FROM TAI PO TO SHA TIN, A PUMPING MAIN TO THE SHA TIN TUNNEL PORTAL INCLUDING A PIPE BRIDGE OVER THE SHING MUN RIVER AND A CULVERT FROM THE DIAMOND HILL TUNNEL PORTAL TO KAI TAK NULLAH.

MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT WILL BE BY THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE TARGET DATES FOR COMMISSIONING THE SCHEME ARE LATE 1992 FOR THE EXPORT OF EFFLUENT FROM SHA TIN AND MID 1994 FOR THE EXPORT OF EFFLUENT FROM TAI PO.

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SAFETY RECORD OF PRESSURE EQUIPMENT CREDITABLE
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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, TODAY (THURSDAY) DESCRIBED THE SAFETY RECORD OF PRESSURE EQUIPMENT CONTROLLED UNDER THE EXISTING LAW IN HONG KONG AS "CREDITABLE".

HE SAID THE HIGH STANDARD COMPARED FAVOURABLY WITH THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD NOT ONLY BE MAINTAINED BUT WOULD BE FURTHER IMPROVED.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE 4TH RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESSURE EQUIPMENT DIVISION, MR HAMMOND REVEALED THAT THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS ORDINANCE WAS CURRENTLY BEING AMENDED.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WOULD BRING THE ORDINANCE UP-TO-DATE AND INTO LINE WITH CURRENT ENGINEERING PRACTICES.

"I AM SURE THAT AS A RESULT OF THESE AMENDMENTS, THE SAFETY RECORD OF PRESSURE EQUIPMENT IN HONG KONG WILL IMPROVE STILL FURTHER," HE SAID.

MR HAMMOND NOTED THAT THE FORMS OF CONTROL EXERCISED UNDER THE ORDINANCE WERE IN LINE WITH THE CONCEPT OF SELF-REGULATION WHICH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WAS TRYING TO PROMOTE IN SEVERAL AREAS.

HE SAID THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY APPOINTED EXAMINERS AND INDEPENDENT INSPECTION AUTHORITIES WERE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE IN ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW AND ENSURING SAFETY IN THE USE OF PRESSURE EQUIPMENT.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS RESPONSIBILITY IS DISCHARGED WITH THE EFFICIENCY, INTEGRITY AND CONSCIENTIOUSNESS THAT IT DESERVES," HE ADDED.

ANOTHER SPEAKER AT THE SEMINAR WAS THE PRINCIPAL SURVEYOR OF THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT DIVISION, MR M.M. MIRZA.

HE SAID THERE ARE A PRESENT 20,700 BOILERS AND 51,000 PRESSURE RECEIVERS REGISTERED FOR USE IN SOME 36,000 FACTORIES AND OTHER PLACES IN HONG KONG.

DURING 1987, ONLY TWO ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN ONE INJURY WERE REPORTED.

"THIS RECORD COMPARES MOST FAVOURABLY WITH THE ACHIEVEMENTS IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY," MR MIRZA SAID.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE CONTROL AND PROPER EXAMINATION OF BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS, ABOUT 50 EXPERIENCED ENGINEERS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AS EXAMINERS.

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THEY ARE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ADVISING OWNERS OF PRESSURE EQUIPMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW AND OTHER SAFETY MATTERS.

THE TWO-DAY SEMINAR IS BEING ATTENDED BY SOME 30 PEOPLE INCLUDING APPOINTED EXAMINERS AND STAFF FROM THE LABOUR AND MARINE DEPARTMENTS.

SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION INCLUDE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS ORDINANCE, IMPROVED PROCEDURES FOR FURTHER REDUCING THE ACCIDENTS TO FIRE-TUBE BOILERS, AND ADMINISTRATIONS AND INTER-DIVISIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS
FOR JUNE TO AUGUST 1988

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THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED LOW DURING THE PERIOD JUNE - AUGUST 1988, WHILE THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINED FURTHER, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THESE FIGURES SHOW THAT THE LABOUR MARKET REMAINED VERY TIGHT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1988 WAS 1.8 PER CENT, WHICH WAS HIGHER THAN THE 1.7 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MAY 1988 BUT WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE INCREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS PERIOD IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN JUNE - AUGUST 1988 WAS ESTIMATED AT 49,100, COMPARED WITH 47,700 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MAY 1988 AND 50,500 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING AUGUST 1987.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1988 WAS 0.6 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 0.8 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MAY 1988.

THE RATE FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1987 WAS 1.0 PER CENT. THE DECREASES OF 0.2 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS PERIOD AND 0.4 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

/THE ESTIMATED

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THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1988 WAS 16,500 COMPARED WITH 22,600 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MAY 1988 AND 27,400 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING AUGUST 1987.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (E.G. PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF PROVISIONAL COUNTS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE MONTHS PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY.

THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST TREND IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JULY - SEPTEMBER 1988 WAS 1.6 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.6 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14,000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 49,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1988 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AROUND DECEMBER 20, 1988 AT \$10 PER COPY.

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HONG KONG RECOGNISES WORLD STANDARDS DAY

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HONG KONG WOULD JOIN MANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD TOMORROW IN RECOGNISING WORLD STANDARDS DAY WHICH MARKS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDISATION, SAID ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR ERNEST EVANS, TODAY (THURSDAY).

HONG KONG IS A CORRESPONDENT MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDISATION (ISO) AND A SUBSCRIBING MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION (IEC).

NOTING THAT THESE TWO INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS HAVE ALL ALONG BEEN ACTIVE IN DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL PRODUCT STANDARDS AND WORKING TOWARDS COMPATIBILITY OF SYSTEMS WORLDWIDE FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH MANUFACTURERS AND CONSUMERS, MR EVANS SAID THAT HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS ARE PLACING INCREASING EMPHASIS ON QUALITY AND CONSUMER SAFETY.

"TO FURTHER PROMOTE STANDARDISATION AND THE AWARENESS OF QUALITY, THE PRODUCT STANDARDS INFORMATION BUREAU OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT COLLECTS AND DISSEMINATES INFORMATION ON STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS IN HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS MARKETS.

"IT MAINTAINS A REFERENCE LIBRARY WITH A GOOD COLLECTION OF STANDARDS PUBLISHED BY THE ISO, THE IEC AND PROMINENT STANDARDS BODIES OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS USA, UK, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND AUSTRALIA," MR EVANS SAID.

MR EVANS ALSO ADDED THAT THE BUREAU PROVIDES AN ENQUIRY SERVICE ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF PRODUCT STANDARDS AND ADVISES MANUFACTURERS ON SUCH REQUIREMENTS.

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30,000 VACANCIES RECORDED IN CLOTHING INDUSTRY

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A VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) SHOWED THAT THE TOTAL WORKFORCE IN THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY HAS DROPPED SLIGHTLY AS A RESULT OF LABOUR SHORTAGE, PARTICULARLY AT THE OPERATIVE LEVEL.

THE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE COUNCIL'S CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR RECORDED THAT THE INDUSTRY EMPLOYED 259,000 WORKERS AS COMPARED WITH 262,000 IN 1985.

/THE 30,000

THE 30,000 REPORTED VACANCIES - MORE THAN TWICE THE NUMBER REPORTED IN THE 1985 SURVEY - CONFIRMED THE BOARD'S OBSERVATION THAT THE MANPOWER DECLINE WAS MAINLY THE RESULT OF LABOUR SHORTAGE, RATHER THAN A SET-BACK IN BUSINESS.

IN THE SURVEY, EMPLOYERS ALSO FORECAST THAT THE INDUSTRY WOULD NEED A WORKFORCE OF 291,000 IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

IN VIEW OF THE LABOUR SHORTAGE, THE INDUSTRY MIGHT HAVE DIFFICULTY IN ACHIEVING THIS FIGURE WITHIN A YEAR. HOWEVER, THE FORECAST ILLUSTRATED THE URGENT DEMAND FOR SKILLED WORKERS IN THE INDUSTRY, THE BOARD SAID.

UNLESS THERE WERE DRASTIC CHANGES IN WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC SITUATIONS AND FURTHER MEASURES OF PROTECTIONISM IMPOSED BY MAJOR IMPORTING COUNTRIES, THE BOARD WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY WOULD MAINTAIN A STEADY GROWTH IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDED THAT EMPLOYERS SHOULD TRAIN AT LEAST 130 TECHNOLOGISTS, 930 TECHNICIANS, 410 CRAFTSMEN AND 15,000 OPERATIVES A YEAR IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A STEADY SUPPLY OF WELL-TRAINED TECHNICAL PERSONNEL UP TO 1993.

THE 1987 MANPOWER SURVEY REPORT OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY IS PUBLISHED AND IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CENTRAL, AT \$16 A COPY.

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HK STUDENTS WIN PRIZES IN ESSAY COMPETITION

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, HAS PRAISED A GROUP OF STUDENTS FOR THEIR RESOUNDING SUCCESS IN THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY ESSAY COMPETITION HELD EARLY THIS YEAR.

HONG KONG STUDENTS WON 14 AWARDS FROM THEIR 22 ENTRIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH ESSAY CONTEST.

THE AWARDS INCLUDED A SECOND PRIZE, A THIRD PRIZE, A SPECIAL COMMENDATION, FOUR HIGH COMMENDATIONS AND SEVEN COMMENDATIONS.

/A RECEPTION

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A RECEPTION WAS HELD AT LEE GARDENS HOTEL YESTERDAY IN HONOUR OF THE WINNERS OF THE ESSAY COMPETITION IN HONG KONG, HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LONDON-BASED CONTEST.

MR LI SAID THE 14 AWARDS WON BY HONG KONG STUDENTS WERE A VERY REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT BY ANY STANDARD, ESPECIALLY WHEN SUCH AN ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS ATTAINED IN A COMPETITION WHICH ATTRACTED NEARLY 3,000 ENTRIES FROM 40 COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES, MANY OF WHICH WERE PREDOMINANTLY ENGLISH-SPEAKING.

MR LI ALSO TOLD THE WINNERS AND THEIR PARENTS AND TEACHERS THAT THE WINNING ENTRIES THIS YEAR WERE OF A VERY HIGH STANDARD.

"THE WINNERS HAVE DISPLAYED EVIDENCE OF A GOOD COMMAND OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND A PROFESSIONAL FLAIR IN PRESENTATION BASED ON EXTENSIVE RESEARCH AND CAREFUL SELECTION OF MATERIAL," MR LI SAID.

"THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED NOT ONLY IN IMPRESSING THE JUDGES OF THE CONTEST IN HONG KONG, BUT ALSO IN WINNING COVETED PRIZES IN THE COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY ESSAY COMPETITION IN LONDON."

THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY ESSAY COMPETITION IS HELD ANNUALLY TO PROMOTE THE USE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE COMMONWEALTH AMONG STUDENTS UNDER THE AGE OF 19.

WINNING ENTRIES IN EACH OF FOUR CLASSES OF THE LOCAL COMPETITION WERE SELECTED.

THE HONG KONG CONTEST ATTRACTED MORE THAN 100 ENTRIES FROM 22 SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

WINNERS OF THE LOCAL COMPETITION WERE AWARDED BOOK PRIZES AMOUNTING TO \$7,250 DONATED BY THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE FIRST PRIZE OF \$1,000 IN CLASS A FOR CANDIDATES AGED BETWEEN 16 AND 19 WENT TO WENDY WING-SEE TSUI OF SACRED HEART CANOSSIAN COLLEGE.

SHE ALSO WON THE SECOND PRIZE IN THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY ESSAY COMPETITION IN LONDON.

/WENDY ALSO

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WENDY ALSO EARNED A ROUND-TRIP TO KUALA LUMPUR, PLUS TWO NIGHT'S ACCOMMODATION IN A HOTEL AND HK\$500 SPENDING MONEY DONATED BY THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY IN HONG KONG.

THIS PRIZE WAS AWARDED TO A LOCAL STUDENT IN CLASS A DECIDED BY THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN LONDON.

IN CLASS B OF THE LONDON CONTEST FOR STUDENTS AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 16, YEUNG MAN-KIT OF IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY COLLEGE WON THE THIRD PRIZE.

OTHER HONG KONG WINNERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION WERE:

CLASS A - CINDY KIT-MING CHAN OF SACRED HEART CANOSSIAN COLLEGE (SPECIAL COMMENDATION), PHYLLIS CHEUNG OF DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL AND EVELINA FAI-YEE YEUNG OF ST. PAUL'S CO-EDUCATIONAL COLLEGE (HIGH COMMENDATIONS)

CLASS B - ELAINE YIN-LING CHAN AND LUCY TANG OF ST. MARY'S CANOSSIAN COLLEGE AND KAISER KAI-SZE FUNG OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE (COMMENDATIONS)

CLASS C - (FOR CANDIDATES AGED 12-14) AMY NG OF DIOCESAN GIRL'S SCHOOL (HIGH COMMENDATION), ASTER YING-YING CHAN AND JOANNA TUEN-WING KEE OF SACRED HEART CANOSSIAN COLLEGE, AND BONNIE WAI-CHE PANG OF ST. MARY'S CANOSSIAN (COMMENDATIONS)

CLASS D - (FOR CANDIDATES UNDER THE AGE OF 12) PIK-CHU LAW OF IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SCHOOL (HIGH COMMENDATION) AND KATIE KWAN OF MARYMOUNT SECONDARY SCHOOL (COMMENDATION)

ALSO ATTENDING THE CEREMONY AND PRESENTING PRIZES TO THE WINNERS WERE BRIGADIER IAN CHRISTIE, DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND MRS OPHELIA CHEUNG-MACPHERSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY IN HONG KONG.

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON
HONG KONG ISLAND FOR CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON HONG KONG ISLAND FOR THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL WHICH FALLS ON OCTOBER 19 (WEDNESDAY) THIS YEAR.

UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM ON OCTOBER 16 AND 19. THE SAME ARRANGEMENTS MAY ALSO BE IMPLEMENTED ON OCTOBER 15, 22 AND 23 IF NECESSARY.

CHAI WAN AREA

ROAD CLOSURES

THE FOLLOWING ROADS WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC:

- * CAPE COLLINSON ROAD EAST OF LIN SHING ROAD EXCEPT FOR HEARSEs.
- * THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE AND CREMATORIUM FROM CAPE COLLINSON ROAD EXCEPT FOR HEARSEs AND VEHICLES CARRYING PASSENGERS TO SERVICES AT THE CREMATORIUM.
- * THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO CHAI WAN CHINESE PERMANENT CEMETERY.
- * CAPE COLLINSON ROAD AND LIN SHING ROAD MAY BE CLOSED DEPENDING ON THE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS.

RE-ROUTEING

- * CAPE COLLINSON ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY WESTBOUND FROM LIN SHING ROAD TO SHEK O ROAD.
- * LIN SHING ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND FROM WAN TSUI ROAD TO CAPE COLLINSON ROAD.
- * THE EASTERN SECTION OF WAN TSUI ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY WESTBOUND FROM CHAI WAN ROAD TO FEI TSUI ROAD.

/PARKING

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PARKING

NO PARKING WILL BE PERMITTED ON OCTOBER 16, 19 AND 23 IN WAN TSUI ROAD, CAPE COLLINSON ROAD, LIN SHING ROAD AND SHEK O ROAD BETWEEN CAPE COLLINSON TRAINING CENTRE AND TAI TAM ROAD.

BUS SERVICES

SPECIAL SERVICES

ROUTE 89 FROM SHAU KEI WAN BUS TERMINUS TO CHAI WAN CEMETERY (CIRCULAR) VIA CHAI WAN MTR STATION WILL OPERATE BETWEEN 7 AM AND 6 PM ON OCTOBER 19 AT A FREQUENCY OF EIGHT TO NINE MINUTES.

BUS STOPS

THE BUS STOP ON WAN TSUI ROAD WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CHAI WAN ROAD (NEAR WAN TSUI ESTATE) WILL BE SUSPENDED.

THE BUS STOP ON WAN TSUI ROAD WEST OF LIN SHING ROAD WILL BE RESITED APPROXIMATELY 40 METRES TOWARDS THE JUNCTION OF FEI TSUI ROAD.

A TEMPORARY BUS STOP WILL BE PROVIDED ON CHAI WAN ROAD EAST OF HONG MAN STREET FOR ALL EASTBOUND BUSES OF THE AFFECTED ROUTES.

BUS RE-ROUTEING

CMB ROUTES 80, 82, 83, 84, 780 AND CROSS HARBOUR ROUTE 106 ON THEIR JOURNEYS TO CHAI WAN WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO OPERATE ALONG CHAI WAN ROAD OMITTING WAN TSUI ROAD.

CMB ROUTES 81 AND 81M, AFTER LEAVING THEIR TERMINAL POINTS AT HING WAH ESTATE, WILL BE RE-ROUTED VIA THE WESTERN SECTION (INSTEAD OF EASTERN SECTION) OF WAN TSUI ROAD BETWEEN FEI TSUI ROAD AND CHAI WAN ROAD ONTO CHAI WAN ROAD.

CMB ROUTES 81 AND 81M ON THEIR JOURNEYS TO HING WAH ESTATE WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CHAI WAN ROAD AND THE WESTERN SECTION OF WAN TSUI ROAD.

/GREEN MINIBUS SERVICES

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GREEN MINIBUS SERVICES

ROUTE 16M ON ITS JOURNEYS TO THE CHAI WAN MTR STATION WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO OPERATE ALONG TAI TAM ROAD AND CHAI WAN ROAD OMITTING SHEK O ROAD, CAPE COLLINSON ROAD, LIN SHING ROAD AND WAN TSUI ROAD.

ROUTE 18M ON ITS JOURNEYS TO THE CHAI WAN MTR STATION WILL BE RE-ROUTED VIA CAPE COLLINSON ROAD, SHEK O ROAD, TAI TAM ROAD AND CHAI WAN ROAD OMITTING LIN SHING ROAD AND WAN TSUI ROAD.

POK FU LAM AREA

RE-ROUTING

CONSORT RISE WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND FROM VICTORIA ROAD TO BISNEY ROAD.

SPECIAL BUS SERVICES

ON OCTOBER 19, BUS ROUTE 57 FROM CENTRAL (EXCHANGE SQUARE) TO CHINESE CHRISTIAN CEMETERY (CIRCULAR) WILL OPERATE BETWEEN 7 AM AND 5.52 PM AT A FREQUENCY OF SEVEN TO EIGHT MINUTES.

ABERDEEN AREA

ROAD CLOSURE

THE FOLLOWING ROADS WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC:

- * PEEL RISE IN THE VICINITY OF ABERDEEN CHINESE CEMETERY.
- * THE SLIP ROAD FROM SHEK PAI WAN ROAD LEADING TO ABERDEEN CHINESE CEMETERY.

/PEAK AREA

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PEAK AREA

THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM ON OCTOBER 19:

ROAD CLOSURE

MT AUSTIN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EXCEPT VEHICLES FOR ACCESS TO PREMISES ON THIS ROAD.

RE-ROUTEING

THE SECTION OF PEAK ROAD OUTSIDE THE UPPER PEAK TRAM TERMINUS CAR PARK AND THE ACCESS ROAD WITHIN THE CAR PARK WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY CLOCKWISE.

PARKING

ALL PARKING SPACES AT PEAK GARDEN WILL BE SUSPENDED.

ALL PARKING FACILITIES EXCEPT THE DESIGNATED SPACES FOR FRANCHISED OMNIBUSES, GREEN MINIBUSES AND TAXIS AT THE UPPER PEAK TRAM TERMINUS WILL BE SUSPENDED.

ALL METERED PARKING SPACES IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE UPPER PEAK TRAM TERMINUS WILL BE SUSPENDED.

BUS SERVICES

ROUTE 15B BETWEEN CAUSEWAY BAY AND THE PEAK WILL OPERATE BETWEEN 8 AM AND 7.40 PM AT AN INTERVAL OF 20 MINUTES.

ROUTE 15M BETWEEN ADMIRALTY MTR STATION (EAST) AND THE PEAK WILL OPERATE BETWEEN 8 AM AND 7.12 PM AT A PEAK FREQUENCY OF 12 MINUTES.

HAPPY VALLEY AREA

THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM ON OCTOBER 19:

- * THE BUS STOP ON WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD NEAR HAU TAK LANE WILL BE SUSPENDED.
- * THE TRAM STOP ON WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD NORTHBOUND OPPOSITE TO THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB WILL BE RESITED NORTHWARDS FOR ABOUT 30 METRES.

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PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ON HIGH RISK OF HILL FIRES

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A MAJOR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WILL BE LAUNCHED TOMORROW (FRIDAY) BY THE GOVERNMENT TO WARN THE PUBLIC OF AN INCREASINGLY HIGH RISK OF HILL FIRES IN THE EXCEPTIONAL DRY SEASON WHICH IS FAST APPROACHING.

DETAILS OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE GIVEN AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 11 AM AT THE SHING MUN COUNTRY PARK.

PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS) OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR K.C. IU; THE DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (NEW TERRITORIES) OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR JAMES HO; AND FLIGHT LIEUTENANT DON SMITH OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A HELICOPTER FIRE FIGHTING DEMONSTRATION BY THE RHKAAF AND THE AFD FIRE CREW.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE EVENT, TRANSPORT FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE AFD HEADQUARTERS, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON, AT 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

AS PUBLIC VEHICULAR ACCESS IS RESTRICTED INSIDE SHING MUN COUNTRY PARK, MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO MAKE THEIR OWN TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE AFD INFORMATION UNIT AT 3-7332176 BEFORE 5 PM TODAY.

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STATUTORY HOLIDAY REMINDER

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL WHICH FALLS ON OCTOBER 19 IS ONE OF THE 11 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES AND THOSE NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$11,500 ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY AND MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

/HOLIDAY PAY

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HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, WHICH COULD BE BETWEEN 28 DAYS AND 31 DAYS PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE AT ANY BRANCH OFFICES OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS HOLD AGM AND SEMINAR
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THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' LIAISON COMMITTEE WILL HOLD ITS THIRD TERM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AND A SEMINAR ON "CAUSALITY BETWEEN EMIGRATION FLUX AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG" TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE SEMINAR, SPONSORED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD, WILL BE HELD AT 10 AM IN THE MARTHA BOSS COMMUNITY CENTRE, CHUNG HAU STREET, HO MAN TIN.

GUEST SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, MR STEPHEN CHEONG AND MR SZETO WAH, AND THE VICE-MANAGING EDITOR OF THE MIRROR, MR LEUNG TAK-BIU.

THERE WILL ALSO BE AN OPEN DISCUSSION TO BE CONDUCTED BY DR WALTER WOU, MODERATOR OF THE SEMINAR.

THE COMMITTEE WAS SET UP IN 1985 WITH THE PRIME OBJECTIVES OF PROVIDING A FORUM FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS TO MEET, DISCUSS AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN, AND PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIP AMONG PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND PARENTS.

IT IS ALSO A LOCAL CONSULTATIVE BODY DEALING WITH MATTERS REGARDING SCHOOLS, STUDENTS AND YOUTHS.

/THE COMMITTEE

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THE COMMITTEE ALSO CO-ORDINATES AND ASSISTS IN THE PROMOTION OF CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

KOWLOON CITY HAS MORE THAN 200 SCHOOLS, THE HIGHEST AMONG THE 19 ADMINISTRATION DISTRICTS IN THE TERRITORY. ABOUT 100 SCHOOLS HAVE JOINED THE COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' LIAISON COMMITTEE SEMINAR TO BE HELD AT 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE MARTHA BOSS COMMUNITY CENTRE, CHUNG HAU STREET, HO MAN TIN.

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ANTI-NARCOTICS MESSAGE AT LUNCH-HOUR CONCERT

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HUNDREDS OF WONG TAI SIN RESIDENTS, MOST OF THEM WORKERS, TODAY (THURSDAY) HEARD THE ANTI-NARCOTICS MESSAGE LOUD AND CLEAR WHEN THEY ATTENDED A FREE LUNCH-HOUR CONCERT AT THE EAST KAI TAK PLAYGROUND IN SAN PO KONG.

THE CONCERT WAS ORGANISED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND SPONSORED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR CHAN CHUN-FAT, SAID TODAY'S CONCERT WAS AIMED AT AROUSING THE AWARENESS OF LOCAL WORKERS ON THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE, PARTICULARLY WITH THE USE OF MANDRAX.

HE SAID THAT THE CONCERT WAS PART OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME PRESENTED BY THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ACAN.

"OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE A TELE-MATCH DAY, CROSS-WORD PUZZLE AND QUIZ COMPETITIONS AS WELL AS A POP CONCERT, ALL OF WHICH UNDERLINE THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS AS THE THEME," MR CHAN ADDED.

THOSE ATTENDING THE LUNCH-HOUR CONCERT WERE TREATED TO PERFORMANCE BY POPULAR SINGERS AND GIVEN A PUBLICITY PAMPHLET HIGHLIGHTING THE DANGERS OF MANDRAX.

ALSO ATTENDING THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE AN ACAN MEMBER, MRS PEGGY MIU LEE; WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NG HON-WAH AND DEPUTY DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER, MR P.J. THOMPSON.

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VARIETY SHOW CONCLUDES CLEANLINESS CAMPAIGN

THE MONTH-LONG CLEANLINESS CAMPAIGN AT WONG TAI SIN SQUATTER AREAS WILL COME TO A CLOSE WITH A VARIETY SHOW ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 15).

DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD, A HOST OF ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING A QUIZ COMPETITION, A COLOUR SHADING COMPETITION AND A CLEANEST HOUSEHOLD COMPETITION, WERE ORGANISED TO AROUSE RESIDENTS' AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS AT SQUATTER AREAS.

TO MARK THE CONCLUSION OF THE CAMPAIGN, A VARIETY SHOW WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY EVENING AT THE REST GARDEN NEXT TO CHING HONG HOUSE, TZE CHING ESTATE.

PROGRAMMES OF THE NIGHT INCLUDE SINGING, A MAGIC SHOW AND A PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR WINNERS OF VARIOUS COMPETITIONS.

THE VARIETY SHOW WILL BE PRECEDED BY A CLOSING CEREMONY TO BE OFFICIATED BY WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR MICHAEL LEE; DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NG HON-WAH; CHAIRPERSON OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S SQUATTER AREAS COMMITTEE, MRS LEE LO YUK-SIM; CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CLEANLINESS CAMPAIGN IN SQUATTER AREAS, MR LI YUK-WAH; AND TWO URBAN COUNCILLORS, MISS YEUNG LAI-YIN AND MS FOK PUI-YEE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE WONG TAI SIN SQUATTER AREAS CLEANLINESS CAMPAIGN BEGINNING AT 8 PM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 15) AT THE REST GARDEN NEXT TO CHING HONG HOUSE, TZE CHING ESTATE.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN IN YAU TSIM

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A FOUR-MONTH-LONG CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS IN YAU TSIM DISTRICT WILL START ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 15).

THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE LAUNCHED WITH AN OPENING CEREMONY AT 2.30 PM IN THE HENRY G. LEONG YAU MA TEI COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 60 PUBLIC SQUARE STREET.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICER, MR AUGUSTINE CHENG, AND DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR YIP WAH.

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AT THE CEREMONY, PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED TO WINNERS OF A SLOGAN CONTEST HELD EARLIER IN THE YEAR.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A DEMONSTRATION ON DRAINAGE CLEANSING.

FOCUSING ON DRAINAGE PROBLEMS, ACTIVITIES OF THE CAMPAIGN INCLUDE THREE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SEMINARS FOR RESTAURANT WORKERS IN THE DISTRICT, A MARKET STALLS CLEANLINESS CONTEST, A BUILDINGS CLEANLINESS CONTEST, AN OPERATION TO CLEAR ABANDONED SIGNBOARDS AND A YEAR-END CLEAN-UP OPERATION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF YAU TSIM DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 15) IN THE HENRY G. LEONG YAU MA TEI COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 60 PUBLIC SQUARE STREET.

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WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS REDEVELOPMENT MATTERS

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THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S WORKING GROUP ON REDEVELOPMENT WILL HOLD ITS SECOND MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE MEETING WILL FOLLOW UP ON PROPOSALS FOR REVIEWING THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE RATES AND THE RESTRICTED TENDER POLICY, AS WELL AS THE EXPANSION OF THE "ENCOURAGEMENT FOR EARLY VOLUNTARY REHOUSING SCHEME".

THESE ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP.

IN ADDITION, MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS MATTERS CONCERNING ASBESTOS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN WONG TAI SIN.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON REDEVELOPMENT IN WONG TAI SIN BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE, ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KING FUK STREET.

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PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE MAN KAM TO ROAD TRAFFIC
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THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL STUDY, AT A SUPPLEMENTARY MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY), A MEMBER'S PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON MAN KAM TO ROAD.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON A PROPOSED SCHEME TO IMPROVE LUK KENG ROAD.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE PROPOSED RELAXATION OF "CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS" ON JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, AND A COMPLAINT ABOUT VEHICLES NOT STOPPING AT THE ZEBRA-CROSSINGS AT LUNG YEUK TAU AND KWAN TEI, FANLING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEETING OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL START AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

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REMINDER FOR WOMEN BORN IN 1963-64
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED WOMEN BORN IN 1963 OR 1964 TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS BEFORE NOVEMBER 13.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID: "TO AVOID THE LAST-MINUTE RUSH, WOMEN OF THIS AGE GROUP WHO HAVE NOT YET APPLIED FOR A NEW I.D. CARD SHOULD COME FORWARD WITHOUT DELAY.

"FAILURE TO APPLY FOR A NEW I.D. CARD WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD IS AN OFFENCE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$3,000," HE ADDED.

APPLICANTS CAN GO TO ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT NEW I.D. CARD ISSUE OFFICES TO RENEW THEIR I.D. CARDS.

THESE OFFICES ARE OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 9.30 PM DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

/ "THE ISSUE

"THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE VERY CROWDED IN THE EVENINGS. TO AVOID HAVING TO QUEUE UP FOR A LONG TIME AT THE ISSUE OFFICES OR TO COME BACK ON ANOTHER DAY, APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO GO TO THESE OFFICES IN THE MORNINGS AND THE AFTERNOONS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THEY MAY MAKE USE OF THE PHONE-IN SERVICE TO ARRANGE FOR AN APPOINTMENT BY CALLING THE OFFICE OF THEIR CHOICE.

THE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE:

- HONG KONG : BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.
TEL. NO. 5-747070
- EAST KOWLOON : AMOY PLAZA, 2ND FLOOR, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD.
TEL. NO. 3-7553679
- WEST KOWLOON : CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2ND FLOOR,
393 CANTON ROAD, YAU MA TEI.
TEL. NO. 3-7232424
- TSUEN WAN : EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,
29-37 TSUEN FU STREET.
TEL. NO. 0-4981259
- SHA TIN : BEFORE OCTOBER 15 - SHATIN CENTRE, PODIUM
FLOOR, 2-16 WANG POK STREET.
TEL. NO. 0-6059108
- AFTER OCTOBER 16 - SHOP 8A, 2/F, CHANWAY
SHOPPING CENTRE, 11-17, SHATIN CENTRE STREET,
SHA TIN.
TEL. NO. 0-6059108
- YUEN LONG : HOP YICK CENTRE, 2ND FLOOR, 31 HOP YICK ROAD.
TEL. NO. 0-793291
- TUEN MUN : CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,
CHI LOK FA YUEN.
TEL. NO. 0-4580862
- SHEUNG SHUI : TSUEN WO TAI LAU, GROUND FLOOR, 82-84 SAN
FUNG AVENUE, SHEK WU HUI.
TEL. NO. 0-927191

"APPLICANTS RESIDING IN SHA TIN SHOULD NOTE THAT THE SHA TIN NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICE WILL SOON MOVE TO SHOP 8A, 2/F, CHANWAY SHOPPING CENTRE, 11-17, SHATIN CENTRE STREET, SHA TIN. THE NEW OFFICE WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL FROM OCTOBER 17, 1988. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"PERSONS WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR OR COLLECT NEW IDENTITY CARDS ON OR AFTER THAT DATE ARE REQUIRED TO GO TO THE NEW OFFICE," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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VARIETY SHOW TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY BUILDING
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RESIDENTS OF YUEN LONG TOWN EAST ARE BEING INVITED TO A FREE VARIETY SHOW TO BE HELD FROM 8 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE BASKETBALL COURT OF THE YUEN LONG ESTATE.

ORGANISED BY THE YUEN LONG TOWN EAST AREA COMMITTEE, THE SHOW IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES INITIATED BY THE AREA COMMITTEES TO PROMOTE MUTUAL CARE AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT AMONGST RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN THE DISTRICT, SIMILAR ACTIVITIES WILL BE ORGANISED BY THE AREA COMMITTEES FOR THE TOWN SOUTH AND WEST AREAS ON THE EVENINGS OF OCTOBER 22 AND OCTOBER 28 RESPECTIVELY.

FEATURING POP SINGING, DANCE, MAGIC AND ACROBATIC PERFORMANCE, TOMORROW'S VARIETY SHOW WILL BE OFFICIATED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE YUEN LONG TOWN EAST AREA COMMITTEE, MR CHAN YAT-TUNG AND THE YUEN LONG ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR TANG WAI-CHUNG.

IN VIEW OF THE PROXIMITY OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRACKS TO THE YUEN LONG TOWN EAST AREA, MR TANG WILL ALSO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO REMIND LOCAL RESIDENTS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF LRT SAFETY.

STAFF OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE WILL ALSO DISTRIBUTE LEAFLETS AND BROADCAST A TAPE MESSAGE ON THE LRT SAFETY ASPECTS DURING THE VARIETY SHOW.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE VARIETY SHOW ORGANISED BY THE YUEN LONG TOWN EAST AREA COMMITTEE AT 8 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) EVENING.

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PRE-WAR BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (THURSDAY) DECLARED A BUILDING AT 252 YU CHAU STREET, SHAM SHUI PO, TO BE LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THE THREE STOREY PRE-WAR BUILDING, BUILT OF TIMBER ROOF AND CONCRETE FLOORS ON LOAD-BEARING BRICK WALLS, HAD BEEN UNDER PERIODICAL SURVEILLANCE SINCE 1966.

"THE VERANDAH IS APPROXIMATELY 75 MM OUT OF UPRIGHT AND ONE OF THE PIERS EXHIBITS A VERTICAL FRACTURE WHICH HAS EXTENDED SLIGHTLY DURING THE RECENT MONTHS INDICATING UNARRESTED LATERAL MOVEMENT OF THE VERANDAH TOWARDS THE STREET.

"THE VERANDAH BEAMS AND THE UNDERSIDE OF THE FIRST FLOOR SLAB ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF CONCRETE DETERIORATION. THE BRICKWORK TO THE REAR ELEVATION IS VERY BADLY ERODED."

HE SAID THE BUILDING AS A WHOLE WAS CONSIDERED BEYOND REASONABLE REPAIR.

"ALSO, THERE IS A RISK OF SUDDEN COLLAPSE OF THE VERANDAH DUE TO CONTINUED VIBRATION OR UNEXPECTED EXTERNAL FORCE FROM VEHICULAR TRAFFIC PASSING THE STREET. IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO CLOSE AND DEMOLISH THIS BUILDING," HE SAID.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON DECEMBER 8, 1988, WAS POSTED TODAY.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD

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SECTIONS OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD IN SHA TIN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM OCTOBER 16 TO 20 AND FROM OCTOBER 23 TO 27 FOR ROAD RESURFACING WORK, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

A 350-METRE LONG SECTION OF THE SOUTHBOUND SLOW LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NEAR THE LION ROCK TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA WILL BE CLOSED DAILY FROM 9.30 PM TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY ON OCTOBER 16 (SUNDAY), 17, 19 AND 20.

FROM 9.30 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING ON OCTOBER 23 (SUNDAY), 24, 25 AND 27, A 350-METRE LONG SECTION OF THE SOUTHBOUND SLOW LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NORTH OF HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE WILL ALSO BE CLOSED.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO WATCH OUT FOR TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND DRIVE WITH EXTRA CARE AND PATIENCE.

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BUS SERVICES IN EASTERN DISTRICT TO BE ADJUSTED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT BUS SERVICES IN EASTERN DISTRICT WILL BE RATIONALISED FROM SUNDAY (OCTOBER 16) TO MAKE BETTER USE OF BUS RESOURCES.

CMB ROUTE 84 OPERATING FROM SHAU KEI WAN WILL BE EXTENDED TO TERMINATE AT HENG FA CHUEN INSTEAD OF ON YIP STREET IN CHAI WAN.

AT THE SAME TIME, BUS ROUTE 88M BETWEEN HENG FA CHUEN AND CHAI WAN MTR STATION WILL BE WITHDRAWN.

IN ADDITION, BUS ROUTE 85 PLYING BETWEEN NORTH POINT FERRY AND A KUNG NGAM WILL BE OPERATED VIA LEI KING WAN TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND THERE.

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ONE-WAY TRAFFIC ON HOK YUEN STREET EAST

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 15), HOK YUEN STREET EAST BETWEEN MAN LOK STREET AND HUNG HOM ROAD IN HUNG HOM WILL BE CONVERTED FROM THE EXISTING TWO-WAY WORKING INTO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.

THE MEASURE WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT FIVE MONTHS FOR ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORK.

DURING THE PERIOD, MOTORISTS ON HUNG HOM ROAD HEADING FOR HOK YUEN STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HUNG HOM ROAD, BAILEY STREET, MA TAU WAI ROAD AND HOK YUEN STREET.

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