DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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STRICT MEASURES PROPOSED TO DEAL WITH VR'S REFUSING RESETTLEMENT OFFERS

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VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG WAITING FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS WILL RISK DETENTION AND BEING BANNED FROM WORKING HERE IF THEY REFUSE OFFERS OF RESETTLEMENT.

AND THOSE WHO DO NOT COMPLY WITH RULES IN TEMPORARY TRANSIT CENTRES OPERATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR), WILL FACE FINES AS WELL AS CONFINEMENT.

THESE PROPOSED MEASURES ARE CONTAINED IN THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN TOMORROW'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE BILL, WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 13, IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR CONDITIONS OF STAY FOR PROPER CONTROL OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES DURING THEIR TEMPORARY STAY HERE.

THE CONDITIONS OF STAY PROVIDE THAT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES -

* SHALL NOT WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE FAIL OR REFUSE TO ACCEPT AN OFFER OF OVERSEAS RESETTLEMENT=

* MUST NOT WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE FAIL OR REFUSE TO SURRENDER THEIR VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CARD, WHEN REQUIRED=

* MUST RESIDE IN SPECIFIED REFUGEE CENTRES AND COMPLY WITH CENTRE RULES= AND

* MUST ABIDE BY OTHER CONDITIONS RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT, SETTING UP OF BUSINESS AND ENROLMENT IN ANY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.

UNDER THE BILL, A BREACH OF ANY CONDITION OF STAY WILL RENDER A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE LIABLE TO BE CONFINED FOR UP TO 28 DAYS. FAILURE TO OBSERVE RULES IN THE TEMPORARY TRANSIT CENTRES WILL RESULT IN A FINE OF $100 OR CONFINEMENT FOR SEVEN DAYS.

IN THE CASE OF A REFUSAL TO ACCEPT AN OFFER OF RESETTLEMENT, A RENEWED OFFER MAY BE MADE AFTER THE 28 DAYS OF CONFINEMENT AND IF THIS TOO WAS REFUSED A FURTHER WARRANT OF DETENTION MAY BE ISSUED.

COMMENTING ON THE MEASURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE UNHCR HAD BEEN CONSULTED AND SUPPORTED THEM.

HE STRESSED THAT HONG KONG STILL REGARDED THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AS AN INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THAT THOSE STILL HERE WERE ACCEPTED ON A TEMPORARY BASIS ONLY, PENDING THEIR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS.

+THE RATE OF OFF-TAKE OF REFUGEES DEPENDS VERY MUCH ON THE GOODWILL AND COOPERATION OF MANY OVERSEAS COUNTRIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/+HOWEVER, RECENTLY .....

+HOWEVER, RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN SOME INDICATION THAT REFUGEES ARE REFUSING OFFERS OF RESETTLEMENT IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY CHOOSE WHERE TO GO. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME AND REDUCES THE OPPORTUNITY OF RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS.+

UNDER THE BILL, THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION WILL BE EMPOWERED TO PROHIBIT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO CONTRAVENE A CONDITION OF STAY, INCLUDING REFUSAL OF A RESETTLEMENT OFFER, FROM TAKING EMPLOYMENT DURING THEIR TEMPORARY STAY HERE.

THE PROHIBITION WOULD BE CLEARLY ENDORSED ON THE OFFENDING VIETNAMESE REFUGEE'S CARD. WHILE HE WOULD NO LONGER BE +LAWFULLY EMPLOYABLE+, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, HIS REFUGEE CARD WOULD STILL BE ACCEPTED AS A PROOF OF IDENTITY.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT UNDER EXISTING LAW ANY EMPLOYER OFFERING EMPLOYMENT TO A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE WHO IS NOT +LAWFULLY EMPLOYABLE+ WILL RISK A $50 000 FINE AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, THE BILL WILL MAKE IT MANDATORY FOR EMPLOYERS TO INSPECT THE CARDS OF THEIR VIETNAMESE REFUGEE EMPLOYEES EVERY TIME WAGES ARE PAID THEM AS A CHECK ON THEIR EMPLOYMENT STATUS.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO FAIL OR REFUSE TO PRODUCE THEIR REFUGEE CARDS FOR INSPECTION OR WHO HAVE CEASED TO BE +LAWFULLY EMPLOYABLE+ TO BE SUMMARILY DISMISSED BY EMPLOYERS. EMPLOYERS WILL ALSO BE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED FROM LIABILITY (E.G. NOTICE OR WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE OR SEVERANCE PAY) ARISING FROM THE DISMISSAL OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT SINCE JANUARY 1979, 77 212 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES HAVE ARRIVED IN HONG KONG. OF THESE, 70 175 HAVE BEEN RESETTLED OVERSEAS — 37 535 TO THE UNITED STATES, 13 189 TO CANADA AND 11 124 TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

+BY JULY, AND ASSUMING THE MONTHLY INFLUX IS NOT MORE THAN 1 500, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE WILL BE ABOUT 15 000 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES STILL IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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HONG KONG TO HAVE SMALLER, ROUND FIVE-DOLLAR COIN

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO INTRODUCE A NEW ROUND FIVE-DOLLAR COIN. IT HAS A SMALLER DIAMETER THAN THE PRESENT 10-SIDED COIN, BUT WEIGHS SLIGHTLY MORE.

THE GOVERNOR HAS, BY A PROCLAMATION WHICH WILL APPEAR IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY), FIXED MAY 11 AS THE DATE FROM WHICH THE NEW COINS WILL BECOME LEGAL TENDER FOR ANY AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING $100.

IN 1974, ON THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COINAGE REVIEW COMMITTEE SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED A PROPOSAL TO REPLACE THE FIVE-DOLLAR NOTE WITH A 10-SIDED COIN.

SO AS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NON-ROUND COINS IN THE RANGE, THE COMMITTEE SUGGESTED THAT WHEN THE LARGE ONE DOLLAR COIN CEASED TO CIRCULATE, CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO REPLACING THE SHAPED $2 COIN PROPOSED IN ITS REPORT WITH A ROUND COIN.

ALTHOUGH OVER 50 MILLION LARGE ONE DOLLAR COINS ARE OUTSTANDING, IT HAS EFFECTIVELY CEASED TO CIRCULATE, THUS PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NON-ROUND COINS.

THE SCALLOPED TWO-DOLLAR COIN OF WHICH 101 MILLION WERE IN CIRCULATION OVER CHINESE NEW YEAR, HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FIVE-DOLLAR COIN OF WHICH 51 MILLION WERE IN CIRCULATION OVER CHINESE NEW YEAR, HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM PARTLY BECAUSE OF ITS SHAPE AND BECAUSE IT WILL NOT ROLL AND THEREFORE CANNOT BE USED EASILY IN VENDING MACHINES. IT HAS ALSO BEEN UNLAWFULLY IMITATED.

THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE HAS DECIDED THAT THE NUMBER OF SHAPED COINS SHOULD BE REDUCED THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF A ROUND $5 COIN, RATHER THAN THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF A ROUND $2 COIN AS SUGGESTED BY THE COINAGE REVIEW COMMITTEE. A SECONDARY REASON FOR THIS DECISION IS THAT THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AUTOMATIC TICKET ISSUING MACHINES ACCEPT $2 COINS, BUT THEY DO NOT ACCEPT THE PRESENT $5 COINS.

THE NEW $5 COIN WILL HAVE A DISTINCTIVE SECURITY EDGE WHICH, WITH OTHER FEATURES, MAKES IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO PRODUCE THAN HONG KONG'S OTHER COINS AND THOSE CIRCULATING IN OTHER COUNTRIES. IT WILL CIRCULATE INITIALLY ALONGSIDE THE EXISTING 10-SIDED COIN, BUT THE LATTER WILL BE PHASED OUT GRADUALLY AND AFTER GOOD NOTICE, IT WILL CEASE TO BE LEGAL TENDER.

THE NEW COIN HAS THE SAME WEIGHT AS THE 50 PENCE COIN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND HAS A LARGE +5+ NUMERAL AVOIDING ANY CONFUSION WITH OTHER COINS NOW IN CIRCULATION.

/THE COIN .....

THE COIN HAS A WIRED OUTLINE OF THE +5+ NUMERAL IN PLACE OF THE CREST OF ARMORIAL BEARINGS WHICH NOW APPEARS ON ALL HONG KONG DOLLAR DENOMINATION COINS.

TO SIGHT AND FEEL, IT IS FAR MORE EASILY IDENTIFIABLE. IT WILL NOT BE CONFUSED WITH THE $1 COIN, OR WITH THE 50-CENT COIN.

THE SECURITY EDGE IS WHAT MAKES THE COIN SPECIAL. THIS TAKES THE FORM OF A GROOVE LET INTO A MILLED EDGE. THE FLOOR OF THE GROOVE HAS RAISED ENGLISH LETTERING AND CHINESE CHARACTERS WHICH READ: +HONG KONG FIVE DOLLARS.+

WITH ONE EXCEPTION, ALL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COINAGE REVIEW COMMITTEE HAVE NOW BEEN IMPLEMENTED. THE EXCEPTION IS THE PROPOSAL THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE 10-CENT COIN. THE PRESENT NICKEL BRASS COIN RANGE DOES NOT HAVE AN ENTIRELY SUITABLE +SLOT+ FOR A NEW SMALLER TEN-CENT COIN, BUT VARIOUS IDEAS ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED.

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GOVERNOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO SIR RUN RUN SHAW

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE TODAY (THURSDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO SIR RUN RUN SHAW FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY RECORD OF SERVICE IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE SIR RUN RUN SHAW HALL IN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, SIR MURRAY SAID: +ALL THE WORLD KNOWS ABOUT HIS FILMS AND CINEMAS, BUT LESS IS KNOWN ABOUT WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR THE RED CROSS AND THE COMMUNITY CHEST, OR, IN PRIVATE FOR THE HONG KONG FESTIVAL OF ARTS, AND AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, FOR THE ARTS CENTRE, AND OF THE IMPETUS THUS GIVEN TO THE EXPANSION OF PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS IN HONG KONG.+

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR AT THE OPENING OF THE SIR RUN RUN SHAW HALL TODAY:

+TO-DAY WE CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THIS NEW AUDITORIUM.

+WE AS A UNIVERSITY HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH MANY GIFTS THAT HAVE MADE OUT OF THIS HEADLAND SUCH A WELL-EQUIPPED AND BEAUTIFUL PLACE OF LEARNING. HERE, IN THIS HALL, WE SEE THE MOST RECENT AND PERHAPS THE MOST MANIFICENT OF THESE GIFTS - A MAGNIFICENT ADDITION TO OUR UNIVERSITY, A FINE BUILDING, GENEROUSLY EQUIPPED AND ADAPTED TO MANY USES, SO THAT IT MAY PLAY A FOCAL PART IN UNIVERSITY LIFE.

+PERHAPS LONG WANTED, BUT WELL WORTH WAITING FOR.

+SUCH AUDITORIA ARE STILL SCARCE IN HONG KONG AND WHILE ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO SERVE THE UNIVERSITY I AM PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL THAT THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PLAN TO USE IT SO THAT IT WOULD ALSO PERMIT EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

/+SIR RUN .....

+SIR RUN RUN HAS AN EXTRAORDINARY RECORD OF SERVICE IN HONG KONG. ALL THE WORLD KNOWS ABOUT HIS FILMS AND CINEMAS, BUT LESS IS KNOWN ABOUT WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR THE RED CROSS AND THE COMMUNITY CHEST, OR, IN PRIVATE FOR THE HONG KONG FESTIVAL OF ARTS, AND, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, FOR THE ARTS CENTRE, AND OF THE IMPETUS THUS GIVEN TO THE EXPANSION OF PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS IN HONG KONG.

+NOW, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT, HE HAS PRESENTED THIS AUDITORIUM. I AM SURE WE ALL SHARE HIS HOPE THAT IT WILL GIVE TO THE PERFORMING ARTS IN THE UNIVERSITY - WHERE THEY ARE ALREADY OF SUCH A HIGH STANDARD - THE SAME ENCOURAGEMENT THAT HE HAS GIVEN TO THE ARTS OUTSIDE IT.

+ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, I THANK HIM.

+I NOW HAVE GREAT PLEASURE IN DECLARING OPEN THE SIR RUN RUN SHAW HALL.+

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GOVERNMENT TEAM BACK FROM CHINA VISIT

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A GROUP OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RETURNED FROM A TWO-DAY VISIT TO GUANGZHOU THIS MORNING AFTER A SERIES OF TALKS ON BORDER SECURITY AND RELATED MATTERS.

THE GROUP, LED BY THE POLITICAL ADVISER, DR DAVID WILSON, MET HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS FROM THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY INCLUDING VICE-GOVERNOR ZENG DINGSHI AND MR ZHANG JIANNAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PROVINCIAL PUBLIC SECURITY DEPARTMENT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS METHODS OF ESTABLISHING MORE REGULAR CONTACT FOR DEALING WITH SUCH MATTERS AS MOVEMENT OF PASSENGERS AND VEHICLES ACROSS THE BORDER AS WELL AS RELATED PROBLEMS SUCH AS SMUGGLING AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

AMONGST OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED DURING MEETINGS IN GUANGZHOU, WHICH WERE HELD IN A VERY FRIENDLY AND CO-OPERATIVE ATMOSPHERE, WAS THE PROBLEM OF REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM SETTLED IN CHINA ATTEMPTING TO COME ILLEGALLY TO HONG KONG.

ACCOMPANYING DR WILSON ON THE VISIT WERE:

J.R. HEYWOOD, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SECURITY=
K.S. TONG, SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT=
SO LAI-YIN, DEPUTY DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER, NEW TERRITORIES=
LAURENCE M.Y. LEUNG, PRINCIPAL IMMIGRATION OFFICER (CONTROL)= AND
CHENG YANG-PING, CHIEF INTERPRETER.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

RENT REVIEW - PRESS CONFERENCE

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THE COMMITTEE OF REVIEW, LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE GIS THEATRE, 5TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

PRESENT WILL BE THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR DONALD LIAO, IN HIS CAPACITY OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, AND THREE MEMBERS - MR RAYMOND FRY, COMMISSIONER FOR RATING AND VALUATION, PROF P.G. WILLOUGHBY OF HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, AND MR ROGER LOBO, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE AT THE GIS THEATRE BY 2 PM WHEN THEY WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY OF READING THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT AND A SUMMARY BEFORE THE START OF THE CONFERENCE AT 2.30 PM.

THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT WILL BE EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER THE CONFERENCE.

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NEW TOWNS SERVED BY NEW BUSES

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MANY OF THE NEW BUSES BOUGHT BY HONG KONG'S TWO FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES HAVE BEEN PUT, A FEW AT A TIME, ON ROUTES TO HOUSING ESTATES IN NEW TOWNS AND ON FEEDER ROUTES FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, SAID THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE TOLD THE KOWLOON ROTARY CLUB AT A PENINSULA HOTEL LUNCHEON THAT THE REPLACEMENT OF OLD BUSES AND NEW DEPLOYMENT ON PROBLEM ROUTES WERE OTHER FACTORS WHICH TENDED TO NULLIFY EFFORTS MADE BY THE COMPANIES TO IMPROVE THEIR SERVICES.

MR ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID THAT KMB LAST YEAR BOUGHT NEARLY 300 BUSES, AND CMB 180, INCREASING THE TOTAL FLEET OF THE TWO COMPANIES FROM 2 700 TO OVER 3 000 AND THE CARRYING CAPACITY BY 16 PER CENT.

+IN THEORY, THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOW BE ENJOYING A MUCH BETTER BUS SERVICE, BUT IN PRACTICE, IN SPITE OF THE UNPRECEDENTED EXPANSION OF THE BUS FLEETS AND RELIEF PROVIDED BY MTR, WE STILL HEAR THE CRY THAT BUS SERVICES HAVE NOT IMPROVED,+ HE SAID.

/+I SUSPECT .....

+I SUSPECT THAT THE MAIN REASON IS THAT NEW BUSES HAVE BEEN PHASED INTO SERVICE, A FEW AT A TIME, SPREAD OVER A LARGE NUMBER OF ROUTES, RATHER THAN BEING INTRODUCED EN BLOCK WITH A BIG FLOURISH,+ HE ADDED.

MR ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE EFFORTS HAD BEEN DECRIED BY SOME, THE ADDITIONAL BUSES AND RELIEF PROVIDED BY THE MTR HAVE HAD AN EFFECT.

HE SAID NEW BUS ROUTES WERE BEING WELL USED AND SURVEY RESULTS SHOWED THAT THE LENGTH OF PEAK PERIODS AND THE LEVEL OF OVER-CROWDING HAD BEEN REDUCED ON MANY EXISTING ROUTES.

MR ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT ADMITTED THAT ALTHOUGH MANY STEPS WERE TAKEN IN 1980 TO OBTAIN ENOUGH BUSES TO MEET DEMAND, BUS SERVICES STILL FELL FAR SHORT OF PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS FOR A GOOD BUT CHEAP PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM.

BUT EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION, HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID A TEAM HEADED BY AN EXPERT FROM THE U.K. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, HAD BEEN FORMED TO DEVELOP PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITY MEASURES.

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TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE BUILDING OPENED

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SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, OPENED THE NEW TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE BUILDING TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE FOUR-STOREY BUILDING IS ON A 658-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT SAN TSING ROAD GRANTED BY GOVERNMENT.

INCLUDED IN THE BUILDING ARE OFFICES AND MEETING AND CONFERENCE ROOMS WITH A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF 950 SQUARE METRES.

IT WAS BUILT AT A COST OF $2.1 MILLION, THE LARGEST AMOUNT EVER SPENT ON A RURAL COMMITTEE BUILDING.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR LAU WONG-FAT= A FORMER CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN YAT-SUN= AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BILLY LAM.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, MR LAM SAID A SPECIAL FEATURE OF THE BUILDING WAS THAT, APART FROM BEING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE OF TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE, IT WOULD PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE FOR FOUR LONG-ESTABLISHED LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - TUEN MUN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, TUEN MUN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, TUEN MUN MEAT TRADE ASSOCIATION AND TUEN MUN SPORT ASSOCIATION.

/ALSO, TEMPORARY .....

ALSO, TEMPORARY SPACE WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS JUNIOR POLICE CALL WHICH HAD NO PERMANENT OFFICE.

MR LAM SAID THE FORMER TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE BUILDING WAS BUILT IN 1954 WHEN MR CHAN YAT-SUN WAS THE COMMITTEE'S CHAIRMAN.

IT WAS DEMOLISHED IN 1976 TO MAKE WAY FOR NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT.

DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, THE COMMITTEE HAD CONTINUED TO PROVIDE SERVICES FROM RENTED PREMISES.

ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS IT HAD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN RESOLVING DISPUTES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE ARISING FROM DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, MR LAM SAID.

HE SAID GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL RESIDENTS WOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE COMMITTEE AND ITS MEMBERS, IN PARTICULAR MR CHAN YAT-SUN AND MR LAU WONG-FAT.

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VOCAL CONCERTS TO BE HELD

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STUDENTS OF MADAM EVELYN CHIU, SOPRANO, WILL PERFORM IN THE FRIDAY MUSIC HOUR CONCERT JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL AND THE MUSIC OFFICE AS A PART OF THE REGULAR MUSIC PROGRAMME.

THE CONCERT WILL BE HELD AT 5.30 PM EACH DAY, ON MAY 8 AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL HALL AND ON MAY 15 AT THE WEST KOWLOON SUB-OFFICE OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE CONCERTS WILL INCLUDE ART SONGS, FOLK SONGS AND OPERA ARIAS, SUCH AS 'LOVE LORN SONG', 'CARO MIO BEN', 'O MIO BABBINO CARO'.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE BRITISH COUNCIL LIBRARY (225, HENNESSY ROAD, HONG KONG), THE MUSIC OFFICE HEADQUARTERS (HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, 9/F., HONG KONG) AND THE WEST KOWLOON SUB-OFFICE OF THE MUSIC OFFICE (157, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON).

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN NORTH POINT

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THE SECTION OF OIL STREET BETWEEN KING'S ROAD AND ELECTRIC ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM ON SUNDAY (MAY 10), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP ON THE CLEARWAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7 AM AND 10 AM AND 4 PM AND 7 PM.

THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CLEARWAY WILL BE INDICATED BY TRAFFIC SIGNS.

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