



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1987

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987	1
SECOND BATCH OF ECVIIS TO RETURN	5
GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO ATLA DECISION	5
Q.W. LEE RE-APPOINTED EXCO MEMBER	6
GOVERNOR TO VISIT YAU MA TEI	6
NEW DISTRICT OFFICER FOR WAN CHAI	7
NEED FOR TRIPARTITE RESPONSIBILITY STRESSED	8
SEMINAR ON DISTRICT AFFAIRS	8
YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT	9
COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUND ALLOCATIONS	10
TUEN MUN COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS DB FUNDS	10
TENDERS INVITED FOR QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS	11
REVISION OF PROPERTY TAX ENQUIRY FEES	11
DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED	11
REMINDER ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD CLOSURE	12

RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987

* * * * *

THE HONG KONG ECONOMY GREW RAPIDLY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987, ACCORDING TO THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT RELEASED BY THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TODAY (TUESDAY).

WHILE DOMESTIC DEMAND HAD STRENGTHENED, THE EXTERNAL SECTOR STILL PROVIDED THE MAIN IMPETUS TO GROWTH.

BY JUNE, THE GROWTH MOMENTUM OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAD BEEN SUSTAINED FOR 16 MONTHS. COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1987 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986, DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY ABOUT 27 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

RE-EXPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 49 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

THE LATEST FIGURES ON ORDER-BOOK POSITIONS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND ON RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES SUGGEST THAT THE ECONOMY'S EXPORT PERFORMANCE IS LIKELY TO REMAIN GOOD IN THE COMING MONTHS.

AS REGARDS DOMESTIC DEMAND, PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE SHOWED SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987 COMPARED WITH THE FIRST HALF OF 1986.

AS AN INDICATION OF THIS, RETAINED IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS AND OF FOODSTUFFS GREW BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT AND 7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN REAL TERMS OVER THIS PERIOD, AND THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES REGISTERED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE.

INVESTMENT EXPENDITURE ALSO GREW STRONGLY, AS REFLECTED BY AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 25 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS OVER THE SAME PERIOD. AMONG THESE, RETAINED IMPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR GREW BY ABOUT 19 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

THE BUOYANT ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE HAD LED TO VERY TIGHT LABOUR MARKET CONDITIONS, AS A RESULT OF WHICH SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN WAGES AND SALARIES OCCURRED. THERE WERE ALSO INCREASED DOMESTIC INFLATIONARY PRESSURES. BUT THE RATE OF CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION, AS REFLECTED BY MOVEMENTS IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDICES, REMAINED WITHIN TOLERABLE LIMITS.

THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE STRONG OVERALL DEMAND FOR LABOUR HAD LED TO A FURTHER DECLINE IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE. THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1987 WAS AT AN HISTORIC LOW OF 1.8 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 2.1 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND 3 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1986.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1987

- 2 -

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED STABLE AT A LOW LEVEL. IT WAS 1.1 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1987, COMPARED WITH 1 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND 1.9 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1986.

NOTWITHSTANDING SOME INCREASE DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1987, THE RATE OF INFLATION WAS STILL FAIRLY LOW COMPARED WITH HONG KONG'S EXPERIENCE OVER THE PAST DECADE. THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) ROSE BY 5.4 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1987 OVER A YEAR EARLIER, FOLLOWING YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASES OF 3.6 PER CENT AND 4.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986 AND THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987. THE CPI (B) AND THE HANG SENG CPI ROSE BY 5.1 PER CENT AND 6.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT UPDATES THE ASSESSMENT OF THE LOCAL ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH WAS GIVEN IN THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1987 PUBLISHED IN MAY. APART FROM GIVING AN OVERALL VIEW, THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE LABOUR SECTOR, ACTIVITY IN SELECTED SECTORS, AND PRICES.

IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING THIS REPORT, USEFUL COMMENTS AND ADVICE WERE RECEIVED FROM THE ECONOMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE, WHICH IS CHAIRED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND INCLUDES IN ITS MEMBERSHIP EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR MARKETS GREW RAPIDLY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987.

THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA WAS ABOUT 65 PER CENT, WHILE THAT OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WAS 34 PER CENT, TO THE UNITED KINGDOM 26 PER CENT, AND TO JAPAN 58 PER CENT.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES GREW RELATIVELY MORE MODERATELY, AT ABOUT 13 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS. AS A RESULT, THE SHARE IN HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS GOING TO THE UNITED STATES DECLINED FROM 42 PER CENT IN 1986 TO 38 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987.

SUSTAINED DEMAND FOR IMPORTS IN OVERSEAS MARKETS, COUPLED WITH THE STIMULATION CAUSED BY THE CUMULATIVE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR (IN LINE WITH THAT OF THE US DOLLAR UNDER THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM) AGAINST MOST OTHER MAJOR CURRENCIES, CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STRONG DOMESTIC EXPORT GROWTH.

THE RAPID GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA ALSO REFLECTED, IN PART, A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN OUTWARD PROCESSING ACTIVITIES IN CHINA COMMISSIONED BY HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS.

/TRADE WITH

TRADE WITH CHINA WAS THE MAIN FACTOR BEHIND THE RAPID GROWTH IN HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987. REFLECTING THE RE-EMERGENCE OF HONG KONG AS CHINA'S ENTREPOT, CHINA NOW ACCOUNTS FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS, WHETHER AS A SOURCE OR AS A MARKET.

COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1987 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986, HONG KONG'S IMPORTS GREW IN REAL TERMS BY ABOUT 34 PER CENT, AND ITS RETAINED IMPORTS BY ABOUT 24 PER CENT.

THE REPORT FURTHER POINTS OUT THAT IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (I.E. DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS) OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, AT 40 PER CENT, WAS ROUGHLY THE SAME AS THAT OF IMPORTS. HENCE A VISIBLE TRADE GAP OF SIMILAR MAGNITUDE TO THAT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1986, EQUIVALENT TO 4 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987.

ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS. FIRST, THE MARKET EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR REMAINED CLOSE TO THE LINKED RATE OF HK\$7.8 TO US\$1 DURING MOST OF THE FIRST HALF OF 1987. HOWEVER, REFLECTING A FURTHER DECLINE IN THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE US DOLLAR AGAINST OTHER MAJOR CURRENCIES, THE OVERALL VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, IN TERMS OF THE TRADE-WEIGHTED EXCHANGE RATE INDEX, FELL FROM 64.8 AT THE END OF DECEMBER 1986 TO 61.4 AT THE END OF JUNE 1987.

SECOND, RELATIVELY LOW LOCAL INTEREST RATES AND BUOYANT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY LED TO A STRONG DEMAND FOR LOANS. AS A RESULT, LOANS AND ADVANCES BY DEPOSIT-TAKING INSTITUTIONS, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS AND THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ALL GREW RAPIDLY DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1987. THE FOREIGN CURRENCY COMPONENT OF DEPOSITS AND OF THE TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY GREW EVEN FASTER.

THIRD, REFLECTING MOVEMENTS IN MARKET INTEREST RATES BOTH LOCALLY AND IN THE UNITED STATES, DEPOSIT RATES SET BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS WERE REVISED ON FIVE OCCASIONS (A DOWNWARD REVISION IN JANUARY, FOLLOWED BY FOUR UPWARD REVISIONS UP TO JUNE) AND THE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AND US DOLLAR MONEY MARKET INTEREST RATES NARROWED TO ABOUT 1/4 PERCENTAGE POINT IN FAVOUR OF THE LATTER BY THE END OF JUNE 1987.

FOURTH, SHARE PRICES ON THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET INCREASED SHARPLY DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1987, SUPPORTED BY FAVOURABLE ECONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS AND STRONG BUYING INTEREST FROM BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS INVESTORS. FURTHER, THE HONG KONG STOCK INDEX FUTURES MARKET, WHICH WAS THE LARGEST OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES, RECORDED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN TURNOVER DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

ON THE LABOUR SECTOR, THE REPORT OBSERVES THAT EMPLOYMENT IN MANUFACTURING INCREASED MODERATELY IN MARCH 1987 OVER MARCH 1986, WHILE EMPLOYMENT IN FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES, IN RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS, IN TRANSPORT SERVICES, AND ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES RECORDED MORE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES.

AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A GENERAL LABOUR SHORTAGE, VACANCIES IN ALL SECTORS INCREASED SHARPLY IN MARCH 1987 OVER MARCH 1986. IN LINE WITH THIS, EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING AND THE SERVICES SECTORS, IN TERMS OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED, INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY BOTH IN MONEY TERMS AND IN REAL TERMS OVER THE SAME PERIOD. CONSTRUCTION WAGE RATES ALSO RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN REAL TERMS.

THE REPORT NOTES THAT FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 16 PER CENT IN 1986, THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION ROSE BY 24 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987 COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO.* MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO BE BUOYANT IN THE SECOND QUARTER, AS EVIDENCED BY THE FIGURES ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS, ON RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES, ON THE QUANTITY OF ELECTRICITY CONSUMED BY THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, AND ON THE ORDER-BOOK POSITIONS OF THE LARGE MANUFACTURERS.

ON THE PROPERTY SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE PROPERTY MARKET AS A WHOLE CONTINUED TO BE BUOYANT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987. PRICES AND RENTALS OF ALL TYPES OF PROPERTY FOLLOWED AN UPWARD TREND.

TRADING IN THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET REMAINED ACTIVE, WITH GREATER INTEREST BEING SHOWN IN THE LARGER FLATS PARTICULARLY IN WELL-PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS. HOWEVER, THE PREVAILING HIGH LEVEL OF FLAT PRICES SEEMED LIKELY TO DAMPEN FURTHER INCREASES IN DEMAND.

THE TIGHT SUPPLY SITUATION OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONTINUED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987. WITH THE COMPLETION OF SEVERAL MAJOR OFFICE DEVELOPMENTS AND AN INCREASED SUPPLY OF SHOPPING SPACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THIS TIGHT SITUATION SHOULD EASE SOMEWHAT.

IN LINE WITH THE STRONG EXPORT PERFORMANCE AND BUOYANT MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY, DEMAND FOR FACTORY ACCOMMODATION REMAINED FIRM.

AS REGARDS BUILDING INTENTIONS, PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS OF ALL TYPES OF PROPERTY, IN TERMS OF THE TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA ON BUILDING PLANS FOR WHICH CONSENT TO COMMENCE WORK HAD BEEN GIVEN, INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987 COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986.

THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT 1987 IS NOW ON SALE AT \$15 A COPY.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1987

- 5 -

SECOND BATCH OF ECVIIS TO RETURN

* * * * *

THE SECOND BATCH OF 650 EX-CHINA VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED TO CHINA TOMORROW, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ROBERT UPTON, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THIS WILL BRING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF 848 ECVIIS RETURNED TO CHINA SINCE THE REPATRIATION PROGRAMME STARTED ON SATURDAY.

MR UPTON SAID THE PROGRAMME WAS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY AND ACCORDING TO THE PROCEDURES AGREED BETWEEN THE HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG OFFICIALS LAST WEEK.

THE PROCEDURES ALLOW FOR A SPEEDY VERIFICATION OF LISTS SUBMITTED TO THE CHINESE IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS BY THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN HONG KONG.

IN THIS CASE, THE CHINESE VERIFIED 655 OF THE 707 NAMES AS BELONGING TO THE GUANGMING HUA QIAO FARM IN GUANGDONG.

OF THE 655 ECVIIS, A FAMILY OF FIVE WILL DEPART AT A LATER DATE DUE TO THE HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THEIR CHILD.

THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT THE REMAINING 52 HAVE LIVED IN CHINA. FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT BY BOTH THE HONG KONG AND CHINESE AUTHORITIES AND THESE 52 WILL BE RESUBMITTED WITH ANOTHER GROUP LATER.

THE GUANGMING GROUP WILL DEPART TOMORROW IN THREE CONVOYS VIA SHA TAU KOK. THE FIRST CROSSING IS EXPECTED TO BE AT 9 AM AND THE EXERCISE IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE EARLY AFTERNOON.

THE THIRD BATCH TO BE REPATRIATED TO CHINA IS EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO ATLA DECISION

* * * * *

WITH REFERENCE TO THE AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING AUTHORITY'S (ATLA) DECISION TO LICENSE HONG KONG DRAGON AIRLINES LIMITED (HDA) FOR THE OPERATION OF SCHEDULED SERVICES TO PEKING AND SHANGHAI, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (TUESDAY) NOTED THAT UNDER EXISTING AIR SERVICES ARRANGEMENTS RIGHTS WERE NOT AT PRESENT AVAILABLE FOR A SECOND HONG KONG AIRLINE TO OPERATE ON ROUTES TO PEKING OR SHANGHAI.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IF HDA WERE TO APPLY FOR DESIGNATION, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS AIR TRANSPORT POLICY, NEED TO CONSIDER WHETHER THERE WAS SUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION AND SCOPE FOR SEEKING ADDITIONAL RIGHTS TO ACCOMMODATE A SECOND HONG KONG AIRLINE.

/"IN COMING

"IN COMING TO A DECISION, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER THE CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY THE EXISTING BILATERAL AIR SERVICES ARRANGEMENTS; THE FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE ATLA IN ITS DECISION; THE COSTS TO THE INCUMBENT AIRLINE; THE PRICE TO BE PAID BY HONG KONG FOR ANY ADDITIONAL RIGHTS AND WHETHER IT IS IN HONG KONG'S OVERALL BEST INTERESTS FOR A SECOND HONG KONG AIRLINE TO OPERATE ON THE SAME ROUTES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE ISSUES WERE COMPLEX, AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NEED TO WEIGH ALL THE FACTORS INVOLVED MOST CAREFULLY BEFORE COMING TO A DECISION.

"THE DECISION OF ATLA IS THE FIRST STEP IN THE PROCEDURE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Q.W. LEE RE-APPOINTED EXCO MEMBER

* * * *

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, THE GOVERNOR HAS RE-APPOINTED MR Q.W. LEE AS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1988. MR LEE'S PRESENT TERM OF OFFICE ENDS ON AUGUST 31, 1987.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVERNOR TO VISIT YAU MA TEI

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND LADY WILSON WILL VISIT YAU MA TEI ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 27) TO SEE ITS VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS.

SIR DAVID WILL FIRST GET A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE TSIM SHA TSUI AREA FROM THE NEW WORLD CENTRE OFFICE BUILDING BEFORE VISITING THE JADE HAWKER BAZAAR AT KANSU STREET. HE WILL THEN WALK ALONG SHANGHAI STREET AND LATER PROCEED TO THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE FOR A BRIEFING BY AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

/BEFORE WINDING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1987

- 7 -

BEFORE WINDING UP HIS VISIT, SIR DAVID WILL MEET LOCAL PERSONALITIES AT A TEA RECEPTION AT THE HENRY G. LEONG YAU MA TEI COMMUNITY CENTRE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO YAU MA TEI. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT 2.10 PM ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 27) AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE NEW WORLD CENTRE OFFICE BUILDING, EAST WING (NEAR TOKYU DEPARTMENT STORE), 20 SALISBURY ROAD. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

----- 0 -----

NEW DISTRICT OFFICER FOR WAN CHAI

* * * * *

MR ALLAN CHOW, AT PRESENT A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (COMMUNITY INFORMATION) OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WILL TAKE OVER FROM MR ROGER GARCIA AS WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 7, 1987, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR GARCIA WILL TAKE UP HIS NEW POST AS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (STAFF PLANNING) IN THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH FROM SEPTEMBER 17, 1987.

MR CHOW WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY MR THOMAS YIU LATER IN SEPTEMBER. MR YIU IS CURRENTLY AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

----- 0 -----

- 8 -

NEED FOR TRIPARTITE RESPONSIBILITY STRESSED

* * * * *

THE ACCIDENT RATE IN THE SHIPBUILDING AND SHIPREPAIRING INDUSTRY IS AS HIGH AS THOSE IN THE TEXTILES AND PLASTICS INDUSTRIES, ACCORDING TO CHAIRMAN OF THE SHIPBUILDING AND SHIPREPAIRING INDUSTRY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE, MR LEUNG KIN.

HE SAID THAT FOR ANY SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TO BE MADE, THE CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES WAS MOST IMPORTANT.

"IT IS ONLY THROUGH THE TRIPARTITE INVOLVEMENT IN WORKING TOWARDS INDUSTRIAL SAFETY COULD THE ACCIDENT RATE BE EFFECTIVELY CONTAINED," HE STRESSED.

MR LEUNG WAS SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION OF AN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE AND SPONSORED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND NINE INDUSTRY-RELATED ORGANISATIONS.

THE COMPETITION, TO PICK OUT THE IRREGULARITIES IN A PICTURE, AIMS TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY AWARENESS AMONG EMPLOYERS, SUPERVISORS AND WORKERS IN THE SHIPBUILDING AND SHIPREPAIRING INDUSTRY.

THERE WERE ALTOGETHER EIGHT PRIZES INCLUDING A VIDEO-TAPE RECORDER, A CAMERA AND A RADIO CASSETTE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SEMINAR ON DISTRICT AFFAIRS

* * * * *

THE ABERDEEN AND AP LEI CHAU AREA COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A SEMINAR TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) EVENING FOR LOCAL RESIDENT ORGANISATIONS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON DISTRICT AFFAIRS.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE MEETING IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF SEMINARS HELD IN THE DISTRICT'S SIX CONSTITUENCIES FOR RESIDENTS TO AIR THEIR VIEWS ON VARIOUS LOCAL MATTERS.

TOMORROW'S SEMINAR WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 7.30 PM TO 10 PM AT THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL OF THE ABERDEEN CIVIC CENTRE.

/THE PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1987

- 9 -

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES A 20-MINUTE SLIDE PRESENTATION ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ABERDEEN AND AP LEI CHAU AND REPORTS AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING MATTERS.

ABOUT 70 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CONSTITUENCY'S MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS' CORPORATIONS AND RESIDENT ASSOCIATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND WHILE REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL ALSO BE PRESENT TO LISTEN TO THE VIEWS.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR SIMON LORD, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF THE SEMINAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT

* * * *

THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WILL JOIN THE 'PLATFORM FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS' SERIES PRESENTED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL BY GIVING A CONCERT ON NEXT THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 3) AT 8 PM AT THE CONCERT HALL, CITY HALL.

UNDER THE BATON OF ITS MUSIC DIRECTOR, MR THOMAS WANG, IT WILL TREAT THE AUDIENCE TO A SUPERB MUSIC PROGRAMME COMPRISING ROSSINI'S 'THE BARBER OF SEVILLE OVERTURE', BEETHOVEN'S 'SYMPHONY NO. 2 IN D MAJOR, OP. 36', HANDEL'S 'WATER MUSIC', VAUGHAN WILLIAMS' 'ENGLISH FOLK SONG SUITE' AND SIBELIUS' 'FINLANDIA'.

THE ORCHESTRA WAS RECENTLY ON A CONCERT TOUR TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND WIDELY ACCLAIMED BY THE MUSIC CRITICS THERE. IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A GROUP OF IMMENSELY TALENTED PLAYERS PERFORMING IN A MANNER THAT MANY A PROFESSIONAL OUTFIT WOULD SIMPLY BE HARD PUT TO EQUAL.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AT \$15, \$20 AND \$30 ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT URBIX OUTLETS AT CITY HALL, QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, SPACE MUSEUM, HONG KONG COLISEUM, NGAU CHI WAN CIVIC CENTRE, TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, SHA TIN TOWN HALL, TUEN MUN TOWN HALL AND TOM LEE MUSIC CO. LTD. (CAMERON LANE, MAN YEE BUILDING, TAIKOO SHING CITYPLAZA AND HENNESSY ROAD).

TELEPHONE RESERVATION CAN BE MADE ON 5-739595 AND STUDENT TICKETS AT \$7.5 AND \$10 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THURSDAY (AUGUST 27).

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1987

- 10 -

COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUND ALLOCATIONS

* * * * *

THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO DISCUSS FUND ALLOCATIONS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND AREA COMMITTEES FOR ORGANISING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA WILL BE INFORMATION PAPERS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL AND THE CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES DRAWN UP BY THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR THE DISTRICT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, 490 NATHAN ROAD.

----- 0 -----

TUEN MUN COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS DB FUNDS

* * * * *

THE CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO DISCUSS 49 APPLICATIONS FOR DB FUNDS TO ORGANISE CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE REPORT ON RECOMMENDATION OF FUNDS FOR MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND THE ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM ON 3/F, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

----- 0 -----

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1987

- 11 -

TENDERS INVITED FOR QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL
EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS

* * * * *

WORK ON IMPROVING AND ADDING A THREE-STOREY EXTENSION TO QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL IN POK FU LAM WILL START IN DECEMBER.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHICH IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE WORK, EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER NEXT YEAR.

THE SCOPE OF THE WORK WILL INCLUDE INTERNAL REFURBISHMENT, SERVICES UPGRADING AND ADDITION OF A THREE-STOREY EXTENSION COMPRISING AN AUTOPSY ROOM AND TWO PLANT ROOMS TO THE EXISTING MORTUARY AT QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS SEPTEMBER 11.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REVISION OF PROPERTY TAX ENQUIRY FEES

* * * * *

THE FEE CHARGED FOR ANSWERING WRITTEN ENQUIRIES CONCERNING ANY OUTSTANDING AMOUNTS OF PROPERTY TAX HAS BEEN REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF RISING COSTS.

THE REVISED RATE WILL COME INTO FORCE AS FROM SEPTEMBER 1.

THE PRESENT FEE IS \$45 PER ENQUIRY PER PROPERTY.

WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 1, THE FEE WILL BE REVISED TO \$100 PER ENQUIRY PER PROPERTY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON SHUM KAU-CHEONG ON MAY 20, 1986 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO A SENTENCE OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCES PASSED ON IP SIU-MAN ON OCTOBER 25, 1984 AND ON WOO PING-YUE ON JUNE 30, 1986 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO SENTENCES OF 20 YEARS' AND 15 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT RESPECTIVELY.

SHUM WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF THE REVEREND KWONG DAO. IP WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF MISS LEUNG SUET-SZE AND MISS LEUNG SUET-ANN, WHILE WOO WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF MADAM TSANG MAN-KUEN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1987

- 12 -

REMINDER ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD CLOSURE

* * * * *

MOTORISTS GOING TO SHA TIN AFTER 9 PM THIS WEEK ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO USE TAI PO ROAD INSTEAD OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD.

THIS IS BECAUSE CERTAIN TRAFFIC LANES ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NORTHBOUND WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC OVERNIGHT BETWEEN 9 PM AND 6 AM FOR MAINTENANCE WORKS AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION IS EXPECTED.

FOR TONIGHT (TUESDAY) AND TOMORROW NIGHT, THE SHA TIN-BOUND KERBSIDE LANE OF THE ROAD BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 170 METRES NORTH OF THE TOLL PLAZA AND HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED.

ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 27) NIGHT, THE OUTER LANE ON THE SAME SECTION OF THE ROAD WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE CLOSURE.

- - - - 0 - - - -