



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1977

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GOVERNOR OPENS TELEPHONE EXCHANGE IN REMOTE VILLAGE

PEOPLE IN REMOTE LAI CHI WO VILLAGE IN DOUBLE HAVEN AND NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES CAN NOW REACH HONG KONG OR EVEN THEIR RELATIONS IN BRITAIN OR ELSEWHERE OVERSEAS IN A MATTER OF SECONDS OR MINUTES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID AT THE OPENING OF A NEW TELEPHONE EXCHANGE IN THE VILLAGE TODAY.

+THIS TRANSFORMATION IS SYMBOLIC OF OUR DESIRE TO EXTEND TO ALL PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND TO THE GREATEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE, BENEFITS ENJOYED ELSEWHERE,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT IN THE VILLAGES EMIGRATION HAD REDUCED THE NUMBER OF ABLE-BODIED RESIDENTS WHO COULD GO FOR HELP IN AN EMERGENCY, AND THE INCREASE IN HIKERS AND WEEK-END VISITORS HAD GREATLY ADDED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF HELP BEING NEEDED.

+IN ANY CASE TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION IS NOW A NORMAL FEATURE OF LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND SHOULD NOT BE DENIED TO THE REMOTE AREAS,+ HE SAID.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:

+I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE PRESENT AT THE OPENING OF THIS TELEPHONE EXCHANGE WHICH WILL BRING GREAT BENEFITS TO THE NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES AND KAT O.

+I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED OVER RECENT YEARS BY WHAT VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES AND RURAL COMMITTEES HAVE SAID TO ME ABOUT THE LACK OF TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS WITH REMOTE VILLAGES. ON THE ONE HAND EMIGRATION HAS REDUCED THE NUMBER OF ABLE-BODIED RESIDENTS WHO COULD GO FOR HELP IN AN EMERGENCY. ON THE OTHER, THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF HIKERS AND WEEK-END VISITORS HAS GREATLY ADDED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF HELP BEING NEEDED.

+IN ANY CASE TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION IS NOW A NORMAL FEATURE OF LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND SHOULD NOT BE DENIED TO THE REMOTE AREAS.

+THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN TACKLED WITH VIGOUR BY THE TELEPHONE COMPANY IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TELEPHONE SERVICES.

+WITH THE OPENING OF THIS EXCHANGE AT LAI CHI WO COVERAGE OF REMOTE VILLAGES OF A SIGNIFICANT SIZE WILL BE NEARLY COMPLETE. THE COST TO THE TELEPHONE COMPANY HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE, BUT IT IS MONEY WELL SPENT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

/+PEOPLE

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+PEOPLE IN THIS REMOTE AREA CAN NOW REACH THEIR FRIENDS OR THE DOCTOR OR THE POLICE IN HONG KONG, OR EVEN THEIR RELATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OR ELSEWHERE, IN A MATTER OF SECONDS OR MINUTES.

+THIS TRANSFORMATION IS SYMBOLIC OF OUR DESIRE TO EXTEND TO ALL PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND TO THE GREATEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE, BENEFITS ENJOYED ELSEWHERE. THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE THROUGH THE EXTENSION OF COMMUNICATIONS.

+IN FORMALLY DECLARING THE LAI CHI WO TELEPHONE EXCHANGE OPEN I TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF CONGRATULATING ALL WHO HAVE BEEN CONCERNED IN ITS PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND COMMISSIONING.+

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GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR MARCH 1977
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THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 1977 SHOWED A SURPLUS OF \$28.6 MILLION COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$184 MILLION IN MARCH LAST YEAR.

TOTAL REVENUE AND RECEIPTS FOR MARCH 1977 WAS \$874.9 MILLION AND TOTAL EXPENDITURE WAS \$846.3 MILLION.

THE ACCUMULATED SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1976-77 WAS \$903 MILLION. THIS COMPARES WITH THE SURPLUS OF \$850 MILLION FORECAST BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

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SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR SHAM SHUI PO YOUTHS
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AN EXHIBITION TO INTRODUCE YOUNG RESIDENTS OF SHAM SHUI PO TO THE SUMMER ACTIVITIES ORGANISED FOR THEM WILL BE HELD AT THE MAPLE STREET PLAYGROUND THIS SATURDAY (JULY 2).

THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN THE COMING SUMMER VACATION, DRAWN UP BY THE SHAM SHUI PO YOUTH CENTRE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, WILL BE DISPLAYED BY MORE THAN 20 WORK GROUPS OF THE CENTRE.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EXHIBITION, WHICH WILL BE OPEN FROM 2 TO 8 P.M., THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES MOBILE THEATRE WILL STAGE A VARIETY SHOW ON THE FOOTBALL PITCH OF THE PLAYGROUND.

THE AUDIENCE ATTENDING THIS FREE PRESENTATION WILL BE ABLE TO SEE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRE DEMONSTRATE CHINESE MARTIAL ART, JUDO, FENCING, FOLK DANCE, SOCIAL DANCE, GUITAR PLAYING AND DRAMA.

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S SUMMER PROGRAMME IS +DEVELOP YOUR HAPPINESS THROUGH SERVICE+. APART FROM ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, THE YOUTH CENTRE WILL ALSO RUN SEVERAL SERVICE PROJECTS TO HELP THE YOUTHS TO SERVE THEIR NEIGHBOURS.

SCHEMES, WHICH ARE DEVISED ON AN AREA BASIS, INCLUDE A KAM TIN COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT AND A CHEUNG SHA WAN LICENSED AREA COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT.

PARTICIPANTS WILL HELP ORGANISE HOME VISITS, FUN FAIRS, OUTINGS FOR FAMILIES LIVING IN THE AREAS, AND PROVIDE HOMEWORK GUIDANCE TO CHILDREN.

ALSO STARTING FROM AUGUST, THE CENTRE WILL OFFER SWIMMING COURSES FOR THE HANDICAPPED. THESE WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE LI CHENG UK SWIMMING POOL EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY.

ANOTHER MAJOR ITEM OF THE SERVICE PROJECT IS THE SELLING OF SECOND HAND BOOKS, WHICH WILL BENEFIT MANY STUDENTS BY ENABLING THEM TO BUY BOOKS AT A MUCH LOWER PRICE.

BESIDES GIVING SERVICE, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY MANY OUT-DOOR AND IN-DOOR ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS TAKING PART IN TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENTS, CHINESE BILLIARD TOURNAMENTS, LAUNCH PICNICS, CHILDREN'S GAMES RALLIES AND CAMPING.

THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME FOR SHAM SHUI PO WILL BEGIN IN MID-JULY AND CONTINUE THROUGHOUT AUGUST. A PHOTO COMPETITION ON ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE CENTRE WILL BE HELD, AND THE WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE PUBLICLY EXHIBITED.

THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED ARE REQUESTED TO REGISTER WITH THE SHAM SHUI PO YOUTH CENTRE AT 88, YU CHAU STREET, 1ST FLOOR, KOWLOON. THEY CAN ALSO CALL 3-811944 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

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TREASURY TO INSTALL NEW COMPUTER

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IN ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN MEETING NUMEROUS BILLING AND ACCOUNTING FUNCTIONS AS WELL AS TO COPE WITH NEW ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS BEING DEVELOPED, THE TREASURY HAS PLACED AN ORDER FOR AN ICL 2960 COMPUTER TO REPLACE ITS EXISTING COMPUTER.

THE NEW COMPUTER IS A POWERFUL MEDIUM CAPACITY SYSTEM, THE LATEST ADDITION TO ICL'S 2900 RANGE, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED IN JUNE LAST YEAR.

THE NEW SYSTEM, THE FIRST ICL 2960 IN HONG KONG, IS TO BE INSTALLED EARLY NEXT YEAR AS A +2960/DME VERSION+, ABLE TO HANDLE THE WORKLOAD OF THE EXISTING COMPUTER WITHOUT ALTERATIONS TO CURRENT PROGRAMMES.

BY JANUARY 1979 IT WILL BE OPERATED UNDER THE OPERATING SYSTEM +VME/B+ AND WILL THUS BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE DUAL ICL 2970 SYSTEM BEING INSTALLED AT THE DATA PROCESSING DIVISION.

REFERRING TO THE EXISTING COMPUTER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY SAID THE COMPUTER WAS COMMISSIONED ALMOST SEVEN YEARS AGO AND IS NOW APPROACHING THE END OF ITS USEFUL LIFE.

+ALTHOUGH VARIOUS ENHANCEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE DURING THESE YEARS, THE POINT HAS NOW BEEN REACHED WHERE, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, FURTHER ENHANCEMENT AND THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL FACILITIES IS NOT POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

BESIDES HANDLING THE PAYROLL OF SOME 107,000 CIVIL SERVANTS AND 30,000 PENSIONERS, THE COMPUTER ALSO HANDLES RATING VALUATION, THE BILLING AND ACCOUNTING OF RATES AND PROPERTY TAX, CROWN RENTS AND PREMIA, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S WIDOWS AND ORPHANS SCHEME FOR ITS EMPLOYEES.

+THE VOLUME OF WORK HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THE COMPUTER WAS COMMISSIONED AND TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY OPERATION IS NOW REQUIRED AT PEAK PERIODS EACH MONTH.+

HE RECALLED THAT IN 1970-71, THE YEAR THE COMPUTER INSTALLATION WAS COMMISSIONED, THE DEPARTMENT (BESIDES OTHER ACCOUNTING DUTIES) DISBURSED SOME \$2,999.9 MILLION AND COLLECTED \$1,113.4 MILLION.

+IN THAT YEAR IT ALSO ISSUED SOME 1.5 MILLION DEMAND NOTES, 2.7 MILLION RECEIPTS, PROCESSED SOME 1.1 MILLION SALARY AND PENSION PAYMENTS AND EXAMINED AND PASSED FOR PAYMENT SOME 315,000 BILLS AND CLAIMS.

+BY 1975-76, THE AMOUNT OF MONEY DISBURSED AND COLLECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT HAD MORE THAN DOUBLED REACHING \$8,579.2 MILLION AND \$2,391.6 MILLION RESPECTIVELY,+ HE SAID.

THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN INCREASES OF MORE THAN 40 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF DEMAND NOTES AND RECEIPTS ISSUED, A MARKED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SALARY AND PENSION PAYMENTS PROCESSED, AND A MORE THAN FOUR-FOLD INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF BILLS AND CLAIMS EXAMINED AND PASSED FOR PAYMENT.

/SYSTEMS

SYSTEMS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT INCLUDE ACCOUNTING FOR LOANS TO STUDENTS, AN ON-LINE DATA COLLECTION NETWORK FOR RECEIPTING OFFICES, ACCOUNTING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO A NEW WIDOWS AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME, IMPROVEMENT OF THE RATES BILLING AND ACCOUNTING SYSTEM, AND GOVERNMENT'S CENTRALISED ACCOUNTS.

+THE LATTER SYSTEM IS A MAJOR PROJECT AND WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT SO FAR DEVELOPED. IT WILL FACILITATE SPEEDIER ACCESS TO VITAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND PROVIDE A BASE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE NEW COMPUTER WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES THAT WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY AVAILABLE.

+TREASURY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A NUMBER OF TIME-CRITICAL OPERATIONS ON WHICH LARGE AMOUNTS OF GOVERNMENT'S REVENUE AND THE PAY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE DEPEND. THE COMPUTER PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN THESE OPERATIONS AND THIS ROLE IS INCREASING.+

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LAND FORMATION FOR PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECT IN TUEN MUN * * *

LAND FORMATION WORK IS TO START LATER THIS YEAR AT SHAN SHEK WAN IN TUEN MUN TO PROVIDE SITE FOR A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE PLANNED FOR 50,000 PEOPLE.

IT FORMS PART OF A \$77 MILLION RECLAMATION AND LAND FORMATION PROJECT ALREADY UNDERWAY IN THE NEW TOWN WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY PRODUCE 77 HECTARES OF RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LAND.

THE LAND FORMATION AT SHAN SHEK WAN WILL TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE. IT WILL INVOLVE THE RESUMPTION OF ABOUT 18,870 SQUARE METERS OF PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LAND.

A ONE MONTH'S NOTICE OF THE RESUMPTION WAS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN SAID OWNERS OF THE PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LAND WOULD BE OFFERED THE ALTERNATIVE OF CASH COMPENSATION OR LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENT DOCUMENTS.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO PAY COMPENSATION FOR CROPS, FRUIT TREES, IRRIGATION SUMPS, WELLS, GRAVES AND BONE POTS, EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE TO SHOPS, WORKSHOPS, PIGBREEDERS AND POULTRY FARMERS, AS WELL AS EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION TO CULTIVATORS, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID SOME 282 TEMPORARY DOMESTIC STRUCTURES, MOSTLY ON CROWN LAND AND OCCUPIED BY 237 FAMILIES, WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARED.

+THESE FAMILIES, IF FOUND ELIGIBLE, WILL BE OFFERED PUBLIC HOUSING IN TUEN MUN= AND THOSE INELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING WILL BE OFFERED TEMPORARY HOUSING+, HE SAID.

A TOTAL OF 882 OTHER ANCILLARY TEMPORARY STRUCTURES WILL ALSO BE CLEARED.

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LAW ON CARTRIDGE OPERATED TOOLS EFFECTIVE TOMORROW
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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY REMINDED FACTORY PROPRIETORS AND WORKERS THAT REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE USE OF CARTRIDGE OPERATED FIXING TOOLS WILL COME INTO FORCE TOMORROW (JULY 1).

THESE TOOLS, A SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE ALTERNATIVE TO DRILLING, ARE WIDELY USED FOR FASTENING ATTACHMENTS TO WALLS AND CEILINGS AND HAVE BEEN THE CAUSE OF 41 ACCIDENTS, INCLUDING FOUR FATAL ONES SINCE 1973.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +MOST OF THE ACCIDENTS HAPPENED BECAUSE THE OPERATORS HAD NOT BEEN PROPERLY TRAINED IN THE USE OF THESE TOOLS.+

THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (CARTRIDGE OPERATED FIXING TOOLS) REGULATIONS 1977, APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN MARCH IMPOSE REQUIREMENTS ON A CONTRACTOR OR PROPRIETOR AND THE OPERATOR OF THESE TOOLS.

THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE REGULATIONS ARE:

- * ONLY TOOLS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR AND SPECIFIED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE REGULATIONS MAY BE USED IN AN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING=
- * AN OPERATOR OF A TOOL MUST NOT BE UNDER 18, AND MUST HOLD A CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY IN A FORM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR=
- * ONLY CARTRIDGES WHICH MEET THE MANUFACTURERS' SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE USED WITH A PARTICULAR TOOL=
- * A SUITABLE STRONG BOX, WITH A LOCK, MUST BE PROVIDED FOR THE TOOL= AND THE BOX MUST CONTAIN AN INSTRUCTION MANUAL IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE ON THE CARE AND OPERATION OF THE TOOL.
- * THE TOOL MUST BE USED IN A PLACE WHICH IS SUITABLY LIT AND SAFE AND WHERE THERE IS NO FLAMMABLE VAPOUR= AND
- * IF A PROPRIETOR OF AN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING OR A CONTRACTOR IN CONSTRUCTION WORK COMMITS AN OFFENCE, HE IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$5,000, AND IF AN OPERATOR COMMITS AN OFFENCE, HE IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$2,000.

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SURVEY OF PRE-WAR PREMISES

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CARRY OUT A SURVEY OF PRE-WAR PREMISES STARTING FROM SATURDAY (JULY 2).

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, A NUMBER OF ENUMERATORS WILL VISIT ALL THE PRE-WAR BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON RENTAL PARTICULARS, CONDITIONS OF THE BUILDINGS, AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND INCOME OF THE OCCUPANTS.

THE SURVEY WILL LAST FOR THE WHOLE OF JULY.

EACH ENUMERATOR WILL CARRY AN OFFICIAL IDENTITY CARD ISSUED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, AND ALL OCCUPANTS OF THESE PREMISES ARE ASKED TO CO-OPERATE BY PROVIDING THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO THE ENUMERATORS.

THE INFORMATION COLLECTED FROM THE HOUSEHOLDS WILL BE KEPT IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WILL BE USED FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY.

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DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE
TO OPEN REGIONAL SCOUT HEADQUARTERS

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION EAST KOWLOON REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AT 5.30 P.M. TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE EAST KOWLOON REGION WAS ESTABLISHED IN JULY LAST YEAR AND GEOGRAPHICALLY IT EMBRACES THE CITY DISTRICTS OF KWUN TONG AND WONG TAI SIN. THE REGION HAS SIX SCOUT DISTRICTS WITH A TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF SOME 5,000 SCOUTS.

LOCATED ON THE GROUND AND FIFTH FLOORS OF KUI ON HOUSE, WO LOK ESTATE IN KWUN TONG, THE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS HAS A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 6,400 SQ. FT. MAINLY USED FOR OFFICES, UNITS FOR TRAINING SESSIONS AND ACTIVITIES, AND ROOMS FOR MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:-

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION EAST KOWLOON HEADQUARTERS TO BE HELD AT THE KUI ON HOUSE, WO LOK ESTATE IN KWUN TONG TOMORROW (JULY 1) AT 5.30 P.M.

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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE DAY CELEBRATION
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR. E.H. NICHOLS, WHO IS ALSO REGISTRAR OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, WILL SPEAK ON THE OCCASION OF THE 55TH INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE DAY AT A CELEBRATION DINNER ON SATURDAY (JULY 2).

THE DINNER WILL BE HELD AT THE GOOD DATES RESTAURANT, AT 86 WATERLOO ROAD, KOWLOON, BEGINNING AT 7 P.M.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT.

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