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REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY HELD IN OCTOBER 1982

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY CONDUCTED IN OCTOBER 1982.

ABOUT 800 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES, REPRESENTING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE ECONOMY, WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE IN THE 3RD QUARTER OF 1982, AND THEIR BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS FOR THE 4TH QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY INDICATE THAT FIRMS IN THE 'MANUFACTURING' SECTOR ON THE WHOLE DID NOT EXPERIENCE IMPROVEMENTS IN BUSINESS DURING THE 3RD QUARTER OF 1982. THIS ACCORDS WITH EXPECTATIONS RECORDED IN THE LAST SURVEY.

FIRMS IN THE 'CONSTRUCTION' SECTOR EXPERIENCED A MORE SUBSTANTIAL DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS DURING THE 3RD QUARTER COMPARED WITH WHAT THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED.

FIRMS IN THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS' SECTOR, REPORTED A DECLINE IN BUSINESS APART FROM RESTAURANTS.

FIRMS IN THE 'OTHER SERVICES' SECTOR IN GENERAL EXPERIENCED A SIMILAR BUSINESS SITUATION AS THAT IN THE 2ND QUARTER, THIS FELL SHORT OF THEIR PREVIOUS EXPECTATIONS OF A MILD IMPROVEMENT.

ACCORDING TO THE RESPONDENTS, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN THE 4TH QUARTER OF 1982 IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN AT THE 3RD QUARTER LEVEL.

ON THE WHOLE, NO IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS PROSPECTS IS PREDICTED FOR THE 4TH QUARTER WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE 'WEARING APPAREL' AND 'TEXTILES' INDUSTRIES.

FIRMS IN THE 'CONSTRUCTION' SECTOR ARE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE 4TH QUARTER AND EXPECT A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS. HOWEVER, FIRMS IN THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS' AND 'OTHER SERVICES' SECTORS BOTH LOOK FORWARD TO IMPROVEMENTS IN BUSINESS PROSPECTS IN THE 4TH QUARTER.

WITHIN THE 'MANUFACTURING SECTOR', RESPONDENTS IN THE 'WEARING APPAREL' AND 'TEXTILES' INDUSTRIES ON BALANCE REPORTED NO IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE 3RD QUARTER, AND THEY EXPECT AN UPTURN IN THE 4TH QUARTER.

IN THE 'FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO', 'PLASTICS', AND 'WATCHES AND CLOCKS' INDUSTRIES, RESPONDING FIRMS EXPERIENCED IMPROVEMENTS IN BUSINESS TO VARYING DEGREES DURING THE 3RD QUARTER. HOWEVER, THEY EXPECT DETERIORATIONS IN BUSINESS IN THE 4TH QUARTER, ESPECIALLY IN RESPECT OF THE 'PLASTICS' INDUSTRY.

/A DETERIORATION .....

A DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS WAS REPORTED BY FIRMS IN THE 'PRINTING', 'FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS', AND 'ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES' INDUSTRIES IN THE 3RD QUARTER AND THEY EXPECT THE DOWNTREND TO CONTINUE INTO THE 4TH QUARTER.

THE 'ELECTRONICS' INDUSTRY, WHICH REPORTED NO IMPROVEMENT IN THE 3RD QUARTER, ALSO PREDICT DETERIORATIONS FOR THE 4TH QUARTER.

RESPONDENTS IN THE 'CONSTRUCTION' SECTOR REPORTED A RATHER SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN BUSINESS DURING THE 3RD QUARTER AND EXPECT FURTHER DETERIORATIONS FOR THE 4TH QUARTER.

FIRMS IN THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE' AND 'HOTELS' BUSINESS EXPERIENCED A DECLINE IN BUSINESS DURING THE 3RD QUARTER. HOWEVER, AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IS EXPECTED BY THESE FIRMS FOR THE 4TH QUARTER.

AS FOR 'RESTAURANTS', BUSINESS DURING THE 3RD QUARTER IMPROVED AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IS EXPECTED FOR THE 4TH QUARTER.

AS REGARDS THE 'OTHER SERVICES' SECTOR, PARTICIPATING FIRMS REPORTED A SIMILAR BUSINESS SITUATION FOR THE 3RD QUARTER AS COMPARED TO THE 2ND QUARTER. HOWEVER, A SIGNIFICANT UPTURN FOR THE 4TH QUARTER IS EXPECTED.

IN GENERAL, INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS OR CONTRACTS, EXCHANGE RATE UNCERTAINTIES AND PRICE COMPETITION AMONG FIRMS IN HONG KONG WERE CITED AS THE MAJOR PROBLEMS BY FIRMS IN THE 'MANUFACTURING' SECTOR IN THE 3RD QUARTER. THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO PERSIST IN THE 4TH QUARTER.

WHEN COMPARED WITH THE 2ND QUARTER, THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FIRMS INDICATING EXCHANGE RATE UNCERTAINTIES AND HIGH MATERIAL PRICES AS THEIR MAJOR PROBLEMS IN THE 3RD AND 4TH QUARTERS. HOWEVER, HIGH INTEREST RATES HAVE BECOME A LESS PROMINENT PROBLEM IN THE 3RD QUARTER.

IN THE 'CONSTRUCTION' SECTOR, PRICE COMPETITION FROM FIRMS IN HONG KONG REMAINED THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM IN THE 3RD QUARTER AND THIS IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE INTO THE 4TH QUARTER. FIRMS ALSO EXPECT THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS CONTRACTS TO CONTINUE INTO THE 4TH QUARTER.

AS REGARDS THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE', PRICE COMPETITION, INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS AND EXCHANGE RATE UNCERTAINTIES WERE THE MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR BOTH THE 3RD AND THE 4TH QUARTERS.

WHILE RESPONDENTS FROM THE 'RESTAURANTS' BUSINESS CONTINUED TO FACE THE PROBLEM OF HIGH STAFF TURNOVER, FIRMS FROM THE 'HOTELS' BUSINESS EXPERIENCED THE PROBLEM OF PRICE COMPETITION.

/AS FOR .....

AS FOR THE 'BANKS', THE MAJORITY OF THE RESPONDENTS INDICATED EXCHANGE RATE UNCERTAINTIES AS THE MAJOR PROBLEM BOTH IN THE 3RD AND 4TH QUARTERS.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE SURVEY RESULTS, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, WERE BASICALLY INTENDED TO PROVIDE ONE SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG.

PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER IN THEIR OPINIONS, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD 'IMPROVED', 'REMAINED THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATED' IN THE IMMEDIATELY PAST QUARTER AS COMPARED WITH THE QUARTER BEFORE. FOR THE FORTHCOMING QUARTER, THEY WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION WILL 'IMPROVE', 'REMAIN THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATE'. THE BALANCE OF OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE TABULATED AND ANALYSED.

THE SURVEY REPORT ALSO CONTAINS A SECTION ON BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS AND A BREAKDOWN OF VIEWS OF FIRMS BY SIZE GROUPS.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT FOR A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CARE AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, CONTAINING AN ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY FINDINGS AND STATISTICAL TABLES, HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO FIRMS TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY AND TO OTHER BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY OBTAIN COPIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, AT $3 PER COPY FROM TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 5-423401.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR OCTOBER 1982

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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) AND CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) FOR OCTOBER 1982 WERE BOTH 134, EACH BEING TWO POINTS OR 1.5 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE PRECEDING MONTH, ACCORDING TO FIGURES PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH OF THE PRECEDING YEAR, C.P.I. (A) INCREASED BY 10 POINTS OR 8.1 PER CENT AND C.P.I. (B) BY 11 POINTS OR 8.9 PER CENT.

DURING OCTOBER, FOOD PRICES, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF FRESH FRUITS AND FRESH VEGETABLES, INCREASED. PRIVATE DWELLING RENTALS, SCHOOL FEES, AND PRICES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, TEXTBOOKS, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR ALSO WENT UP.

THE C.P.I. (A) AND C.P.I. (B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, DERIVED FROM THE 1979/80 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

THE C.P.I. (A) REFERRED TO HOUSEHOLD SPENDING BETWEEN $1 000 AND $3 499 A MONTH AND THE C.P.I. (B) TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN $3 500 AND $6 499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME.

THE INDEXES FOR OCTOBER IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES ARE GIVEN BELOW, TOGETHER WITH THOSE FOR SEPTEMBER 1982 AND OCTOBER 1981.

(OCTOBER 1979 TO SEPTEMBER 1980 AVERAGE = 100)

SECTION	C.P.I.(A) OCT.81	C.P.I.(A) SEPT.82	C.P.I.(A) OCT.82	C.P.I.(B) OCT.81	C.P.I.(B) SEPT.82	C.P.I.(B) OCT.82
FOODSTUFFS	129	138	139	128	138	139
HOUSING	119	127	129	119	127	129
FUEL AND LIGHT	139	134	138	139	134	138
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	117	124	124	116	124	124
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	117	130	133	118	130	134
DURABLE GOODS	108	108	108	109	110	110
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	112	125	125	113	123	123
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	134	142	142	131	142	143
SERVICES	124	135	140	123	134	139
ALL ITEMS	124	132	134	123	132	134

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY ONE POINT IN BOTH C.P.I. (A) AND C.P.I. (B).

/RISES WERE .....

RISES WERE RECORDED IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH FRUITS AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES OF ORANGES CAUSED LARGELY BY THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE U.S. DOLLAR AND IN THOSE OF FRESH VEGETABLES. THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF PORK ALSO WENT UP. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SALT-WATER FISH DECREASED OWING TO INCREASED SUPPLY DURING THE MONTH.

THE EFFECT OF THE MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS WAS INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY TWO POINTS IN BOTH C.P.I. (A) AND C.P.I. (B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER RENTS FOR PRIVATE DWELLINGS.

THE 4-POINT INCREASE IN THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT IN BOTH C.P.I. (A) AND C.P.I. (B) WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIGHER PRICES OF KEROSENE AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS AS WELL AS HIGHER CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY DUE TO FUEL COST ADJUSTMENT.

HIGHER PRICES FOR MEN'S AND WOMEN'S OUTERCLOTHING CAUSED THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR TO INCREASE BY THREE POINTS IN C.P.I. (A) AND BY FOUR POINTS IN C.P.I. (B).

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES INCREASED BY FIVE POINTS IN BOTH C.P.I. (A) AND C.P.I. (B) BECAUSE OF THE UPWARD MOVEMENTS IN BOTH SCHOOL FEES AND TEXTBOOK PRICES FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR OF 1982/83.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN THE OTHER SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

REGARDING THE YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, IT IS IMPORTANT TO HIGHLIGHT THAT THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT ACTUALLY DECREASED BY ONE POINT IN BOTH C.P.I. (A) AND C.P.I. (B) WHILE THE INDEXES FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR, AND SERVICES EXPERIENCED THE LARGEST INCREASE OF 16 POINTS IN BOTH C.P.I. (A) AND C.P.I. (B).

DETAILS OF THESE PRICE MOVEMENTS ARE GIVEN IN THE +CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT+ FOR OCTOBER 1982.

BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE VERSIONS OF THIS REPORT WILL BE ON SALE TOMORROW AT $3 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GEMERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NO. 3-7216512.

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HK CALLED +A GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER'S PARADISE+

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THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR DAVID MCDONALD, SAID TODAY THAT IT MUST BE QUITE OBVIOUS EVEN TO A CASUAL OBSERVER THAT +HONG KONG IS SOMETHING OF A GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER'S PARADISE+.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE FIVE-DAY SEVENTH SOUTHEAST ASIAN GEOTECHNICAL CONFERENCE, HE SAID: +AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE IS POSSIBLY A GREATER CONCENTRATION OF GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING ACTIVITY IN HONG KONG THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THERE IS A CORRESPONDINGLY HIGH CONCENTRATION OF GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERS.+

MR MCDONALD SAID: +OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, HONG KONG HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING AN ECONOMIC BOOM. THIS HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY MARKED BY THE EXTENSIVE CIVIL ENGINEERING AND BUILDING WORKS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AND GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERS HAVE BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH THIS HIGH LEVEL OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY.+

THE GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED, WAS UNDERTAKING A WHOLE RANGE OF MAJOR CIVIL ENGINEERING AND BUILDING PROJECTS, THROUGH ITS SEVERAL WORKS DEPARTMENTS:

* LARGE SITE FORMATION WORKS WERE CONTINUALLY UNDER WAY IN HONG KONG'S HILLY TERRAIN TO CREATE FLAT LAND FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THESE WORKS WERE OFTEN ACCOMPANIED BY MAJOR RECLAMATION SCHEMES.

* THERE WERE SEVERAL ROAD SCHEMES IN VARIOUS STAGES OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.

* THE CAPACITY OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WAS BEING CONSIDERABLY INCREASED BY DOUBLE-TRACKING AND ELECTRIFICATION.

* SIX NEW TOWNS, EACH OF WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED A MASSIVE CIVIL ENGINEERING PROJECT ON ITS OWN, WERE AT PRESENT UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

* LARGE DIAMETER TUNNELS WERE BEING ADVANCED THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS TO CARRY FRESH WATER FROM CHINA TO MEET HONG KONG'S EVER INCREASING NEEDS.

* THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION HAD RECENTLY COMMENCED TUNNELLING WORKS FOR A NEW UNDERGROUND LINE THAT WOULD RUN FROM WESTERN DISTRICT TO CHAI WAN AND THE NEW CASTLE PEAK POWER STATION PROJECT MUST RANK AS ONE OF THE LARGEST CIVIL ENGINEERING PROJECTS OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

/IN ADDITION .....

IN ADDITION TO THE WIDE RANGE OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS GOING ON IN THE NEW TOWNS, BUILDING ACTIVITIES OF PARTICULAR NOTE WERE THE LARGE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND THE HIGH-RISE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BLOCKS WHICH DOMINATED THE SHORELINES OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR MCDONALD SAID.

A SMALL LAND AREA COUPLED WITH A POPULATION IN EXCESS OF FIVE MILLION PEOPLE MADE THE ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF LAND OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, HE ADDED.

+UNFORTUNATELY THE MAJORITY OF THE TERRAIN IS EXTREMELY HILLY, AND THIS MAKES LAND DEVELOPMENT DIFFICULT AND COSTLY. THE IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING INPUT INTO ALL LAND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IS THEREFORE OBVIOUS.

+AT ONE EXTREME, THIS INVOLVES THE PROVISION OF GEOTECHNICAL INFORMATION FOR PLANNING PURPOSES; AT THE OTHER, IT DICTATES THAT FULL RECOGNITION OF GEOTECHNICAL FACTORS BE MADE IN THE SAFE AND ECONOMIC DESIGN OF INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

TURNING TO THE EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY SEASONAL RAINFALL, MR MCDONALD SAID THIS HAD GREAT IMPLICATIONS FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION. IT WAS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT FOR GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO WERE CONCERNED WITH SLOPE STABILITY AND SLOPE-RELATED PROBLEMS.

+BECAUSE OF HEAVY DOWNPOURS LANDSLIPS ARE NOT UNCOMMON. FORTUNATELY, THE MAJORITY OF THESE ARE SMALL, AND THEY CAUSE CASUALTIES ONLY INFREQUENTLY. REGRETTABLY, HOWEVER, THERE HAVE IN THE PAST BEEN A FEW LANDSLIP DISASTERS WHICH RESULTED IN MANY DEATHS AND INJURIES,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

IN ORDER TO GUARD AGAINST THE REPETITION OF SUCH TRAGIC EVENTS, THE GOVERNMENT ACTED DECISIVELY IN 1977 TO ESTABLISH THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE, HE ADDED.

THE PRIMARY REASON FOR STAGING A CONFERENCE OF THIS KIND, MR MCDONALD SAID, MUST BE THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING TO THE BENEFIT OF THE PROFESSION AND TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES WAS THE OPPORTUNITY THEY AFFORDED FOR PARTICIPANTS OF DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND EXPERIENCES TO EXCHANGE VIEWS INFORMALLY AND TO FORGE RELATIONSHIPS WHICH OFTEN PROVE TO BE OF GREAT PROFESSIONAL VALUE, HE ADDED.

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TRANSFER OF THE PIU TO THE STANDING COMMISSION

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED A RECOMMENDATION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE THAT CONTROL OF THE PAY INVESTIGATION UNIT BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH TO THE STANDING COMMISSION.

THE STANDING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO VIEWS EXPRESSED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVICE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS AND PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANISATIONS THAT THE INDEPENDENCE AND IMPARTIALITY OF THE UNIT SHOULD BE EMPHASISED BY ITS BEING PLACED UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE COMMISSION.

THE UNIT, CURRENTLY PART OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, OBTAINS DATA ON PAY LEVELS, PAY TRENDS, FRINGE BENEFITS AND OTHER CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ASSIST IN FORMULATING PROPOSALS ON CIVIL SERVICE PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE. ON TRANSFER TO THE COMMISSION'S CONTROL, IT WILL BE RETITLED AS THE PAY SURVEY AND RESEARCH UNIT.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ACCEPTED THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL THAT A NEW PAY TREND SURVEY COMMITTEE SHOULD BE FORMED TO TAKE OVER THE ROLE OF THE CURRENT PIU STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL IN COMMISSIONING AND ANALYSING THE ANNUAL PAY TREND SURVEY. THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION HAS REGARD TO THE NEED TO ALLOW WIDER STAFF PARTICIPATION IN THE PAY TREND SURVEY PROCESS.

THE NEW COMMITTEE, TO BE CHAIRED BY A COMMISSION MEMBER, WILL CONSIST OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ADMINISTRATION, THE STAFF SIDE OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL, THE POLICE FORCE WHICH IS NOT REPRESENTED IN THE SENIOR COUNCIL, THE JUNIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE ESTABLISHED LATER THIS YEAR AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE STANDING COMMISSION.

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INSURANCE IN SCHOOLS

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS IN A CIRCULAR ASKED SUPERVISORS AND HEADS OF ALL SCHOOLS TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE NEED FOR OBTAINING ADEQUATE INSURANCE COVER AGAINST THEIR PUPILS, EMPLOYEES AND THE SCHOOL PREMISES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID IN ADDITION TO TAKING NECESSARY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN LESSONS SUCH AS PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SCIENCE, PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS AS WELL AS IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, HEADS OF SCHOOLS SHOULD TAKE OUT AN INSURANCE POLICY ON BEHALF OF THEIR PUPILS AGAINST ANY ACCIDENTAL BODILY INJURY THAT MAY BE SUSTAINED DURING SUCH ACTIVITIES.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, HEADS OF SCHOOLS SHOULD NOTE THAT IF PERSONAL INJURY SHOULD OCCUR THROUGH NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF A TEACHER OR A STUDENT-TEACHER, THE SCHOOL COULD BE SUED FOR DAMAGES ARISING FROM THIS NEGLIGENCE. IN OTHER WORDS, HE SAID, THE SUPERVISOR WOULD BE LIABLE.

/AS EMPLOYERS, ...

AS EMPLOYERS, SUPERVISORS HAVE A STATUTORY OBLIGATION TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE POLICIES ON BEHALF OF THEIR STAFF, WHO ARE COVERED BY THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE WHICH IS APPLICABLE NOT ONLY TO MANUAL WORKERS BUT ALSO TO OTHER EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING TEACHERS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS.

SUPERVISORS ARE ALSO ADVISED IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS TO HAVE THEIR SCHOOL PREMISES TOGETHER WITH FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT INSURED AGAINST LOSS OR DAMAGE BY FIRE, IN PARTICULAR THE PREMISES OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF WORKSHOPS AND LABORATORIES.

HEADS OF AIDED SCHOOLS SHOULD CHARGE THE INSURANCE PREMIUM TO THE CAPITATION GRANT ACCOUNT, THE OTHER CHARGES GRANT ACCOUNT OR THE TONG FAI ACCOUNT AS STIPULATED IN THE CODE OF AID, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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MEETING ON SCHEMES OF CONTROL

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A MEETING WAS HELD THIS MORNING (NOVEMBER 22) IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT BETWEEN THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION AND THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES.

THE MEETING WAS HELD AT THE INVITATION OF THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES. IT WAS INTENDED TO CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN HOW THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL OF THE TWO ELECTRICITY COMPANIES WORKED AND TO DISCUSS RELATED ISSUES.

AT THE MEETING, THE CMA AND THE FEDERATION RAISED MANY SEARCHING QUESTIONS AND MADE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE PROVISIONS AND OPERATION OF THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL. THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES UNDERTOOK TO GIVE THESE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

THE CENTRAL SUGGESTION MADE BY THE CMA AND THE FEDERATION WAS THAT THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL BE INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINED BY A COMMISSION UPON WHICH WOULD BE REPRESENTED THE CONSUMERS, THE POWER COMPANIES AND THE GOVERNMENT.

THE MEETING WAS HELD IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE, WHICH ENABLED ALL THREE PARTIES TO ENGAGE IN A FULL AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS.

IT WAS AGREED THAT FURTHER MEETINGS MIGHT USEFULLY BE HELD.

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DB TO DISCUSS +MOBILE+ MEET-THE-PUBLIC SCHEME

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS A PROPOSAL FOR STARTING A +MOBILE+ MEET-THE-PUBLIC SCHEME IN THE DISTRICT AT ITS FOURTH MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 24) AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE.

AT PRESENT, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS RECEIVE THE PUBLIC AT THE SECRETARIAT OFFICE.

THE BOARD HAS ALSO INVITED A MEMBER OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, MRS WUN LAW YIM-BING, TO TALK ON THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL AT WEDNESDAY'S MEETING.

OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED INCLUDE MAINTENANCE OF A FOOTBRIDGE IN KAK TIN VILLAGE, TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE PROGRESS REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO NAME A NUMBER OF NEW ROADS AND HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL START AT 9.30 AM ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 24) IN THE FUNCTION ROOM OF THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE. A 14-SEATER GOVERNMENT VAN FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 8.45 AM FOR SHA TIN.

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NEW SEWAGE PUMPING STATION FOR EAST KOWLOON

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THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WILL CONSTRUCT A NEW SEWAGE PUMPING STATION NEAR THE JUNCTION OF SUNG WONG TOI ROAD AND TO KWA WAN ROAD IN EAST KOWLOON.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT ARE NOW BEING INVITED BY THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

THE PUMPING STATION WILL BE A SINGLE-STOREY BUILDING WITH A BASEMENT TO HOUSE THREE PUMPS. IT WILL AUGMENT THE FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE EXISTING SEWAGE SCREENING PLANT AND THE SUBMARINE OUTFALL WHICH ARE TAKING AN INCREASING SEWAGE LOAD FROM KOWLOON CITY, WONG TAI SIN AND HUNG HOM DISTRICTS.

ON COMPLETION, THE PUMPING STATION WILL PERMIT A BETTER DILUTION AND DISPERSION OF SCREENED SEWAGE EFFLUENTS, WITH A CONSEQUENT OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF WATER CONDITIONS IN EASTERN VICTORIA HARBOUR.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL COMMENCE EARLY NEXT YEAR AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN MID-1984.

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CHRISTMAS TENNIS COURSES

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CHILDREN BETWEEN EIGHT AND 12 YEARS OF AGE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN TO PLAY TENNIS DURING THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

A +LEARN TO PLAY TENNIS+ COURSE, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG TENNIS ASSOCIATION, THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE AND THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE (RSS) OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, WILL BE HELD FROM DECEMBER 27 TO JANUARY 1.

TWO-HOUR CLASSES COMPOSED OF 12 PLAYERS WILL BE HELD EACH DAY AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE IN SHA TIN.

THERE WILL BE FOUR DIFFERENT GROUPS PLAYING AT 9 AM, 11 AM, 2 PM AND 4 PM. EACH GROUP WILL HAVE SIX CLASSES.

INSTRUCTORS ARE DIRECTLY APPOINTED BY THE HONG KONG TENNIS ASSOCIATION.

THE PROGRAMME FEE FOR THE COMPLETE COURSE IS $15.

ENROLMENT IS ON FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS. COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS TOGETHER WITH A PHOTOSTAT COPY OF EITHER JUVENILE I/D CARD OR BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND THE FEE SHOULD BE RETURNED TO RSS HEADQUARTERS.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE RSS HEADQUARTERS AND ITS 19 DISTRICT OFFICES, THE HONG KONG TENNIS ASSOCIATION AND THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE COURSE MAY BE MADE AT 5-741546, O-6051212 OR 5-458511.

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WATER LEAKAGE TEST

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 25) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY NAM LONG SHAN ROAD, SHUM WAN ROAD, WELFARE ROAD, POLICE SCHOOL ROAD, OCEAN PARK ROAD, YIP FAT STREET, HEUNG YIP ROAD AND 42-62 WONG CHUK HANG ROAD, INCLUDING OCEAN PARK, POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL AND WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE.

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WATER FIGURES

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 79.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 461.411 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 274.938 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 47.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS FOR AUCTION

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR REGISTRATION NUMBERS ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 27) AT 11 AM IN ROOM 916, MONG KOK LICENSING SUB-OFFICE, 56 DUNDAS STREET, KOWLOON.

THIRTY-FIVE SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

CX 510	CM 22	CX 721	CL 9999	CX 551
CW 724	CX 2800	CX 720	CX 703	CS 18
CX 128	CX 750	CX 713	CX 702	CX 501
CX 312	CX 751	CK 1818	CW 1212	CG 838
CX 2500	CX 730	CX 712	CX 502	2823
AK 802	CX 747	CX 711	CJ 81	CX 731
CS 55	CX 1288	CX 710	CX 701	CX 503

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY IN CASH OR BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 80TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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