



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1986

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
SIR DAVID VISITS CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE	1
BAN ON SMOKELESS TOBACCO PROPOSED	2
PROVISIONAL BOARD FOR LDC TO BE APPOINTED	3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR JUNE	6
PANEL KNITTERS REMINDED OF REGISTRATION CONDITIONS	8
FIRST ASBESTOSIS VICTIM COMPENSATED	9
SEMINAR ON CRIME PREVENTION FOR MONG KOK	10
DETAILS OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT TEAM	10
DISCUSSION ON EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT	11
MURAL PAINTING FOR CHEUNG CHAU PLAYGROUND	11
NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES FOR FANLING, SHEUNG SHUI	12
TEMPORARY CLOSURE ON KING'S ROAD	13

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1986

- 1 -

SIR DAVID VISITS CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE
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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON VISITED THE ARRAN STREET CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE IN KOWLOON TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDED THERE.

HE WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR RUDY KHOO, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (HEALTH SERVICES AND PLANNING), DR S.H. LEE, THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR (KOWLOON), DR LAWRENCE LAI, AND THE CONSULTANT PAEDIATRICIAN IN CHARGE, DR LILLIAN KO.

THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES OF THE ASSESSMENT CENTRE WERE BRIEFLY INTRODUCED TO SIR DAVID AT A SLIDE PRESENTATION.

THE TWO-STOREY BUILDING COMPRISES TWO CLINICS - THE CHILD ASSESSMENT CLINIC AND THE HEARING AID CLINIC.

THE CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE, WHICH WAS SET UP IN 1977, HELPS TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISABLED CHILDREN BY DETECTING AND STUDYING THEIR PROBLEMS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE AGE AND DETERMINING THE BEST WAYS TO HELP THEM.

THE HEARING AID CLINIC, WHILE BEING A PART OF THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE FOR CHILD ASSESSMENT, ALSO PROVIDES HEARING ASSESSMENT AND AID TO ADULTS WITH PARTIAL HEARING IMPAIRMENT.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT CHILDREN ATTENDING THE ASSESSMENT CLINIC ARE REFERRED EITHER BY DOCTORS OR PSYCHOLOGISTS. THE NUMBER OF REFERRALS TO THE CLINIC WAS 1 142 IN 1985 COMPARED WITH 197 CASES IN 1978 WHEN THE CLINIC BEGAN OPERATION.

INITIALLY, CASES ARE SCREENED BY AN ASSESSMENT TEAM COMPRISING A DOCTOR, A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND A MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER. HOWEVER, CASES REQUIRING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OR TREATMENT, NAMELY SPEECH THERAPY, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PHYSIOTHERAPY, VISUAL AND HEARING ASSISTANCE, WILL BE REFERRED TO STAFF OF THE RESPECTIVE DISCIPLINES STATIONED IN THE CENTRE.

AFTER ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT, THE MAJORITY OF CHILDREN WILL BE RECOMMENDED TO AN APPROPRIATE SPECIAL SCHOOL ACCORDING TO ABILITY.

AS WELL AS VISITING THE AUDIOMETRY ROOM FOR ASSESSING CHILDREN WITH HEARING PROBLEMS AND THE OBSERVATION ROOM, THE ACTING GOVERNOR ALSO TOURED THE TOY LIBRARY WHICH FORMS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE ASSESSMENT SERVICE.

THE LIBRARY WAS SET UP IN 1982 WITH THE AIM OF ENHANCING THE MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF THERAPEUTIC, EDUCATIONAL AND STIMULATING TOYS.

/CHILDREN

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1986

- 2 -

CHILDREN WITH DIFFERENT PROBLEMS ARE TAUGHT TO PLAY WITH TOYS CATEGORISED FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES. THEY ARE THEN ALLOWED TO TAKE THE TOYS HOME FOR UP TO TWO WEEKS DURING WHICH TIME PARENTS ARE ASKED TO MONITOR THE CHILDREN'S PROGRESS.

BEFORE ENDING HIS TOUR, SIR DAVID WAS BRIEFED ON THE EXPANSION PROGRAMME OF THE CHILD ASSESSMENT SERVICE.

PLANNING IS UNDERWAY FOR ESTABLISHING SIX ADDITIONAL CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

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BAN ON SMOKELESS TOBACCO PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING LEGISLATION AIMED AT BANNING THE IMPORTATION, MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ORALLY-TAKEN SMOKELESS TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

THIS WILL BE DONE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE WHICH EMPOWERS THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS TO PROHIBIT OR REGULATE THE IMPORTATION OF ANY FOOD OR DRUG WHICH HE CONSIDERS TO BE PREJUDICIAL TO PUBLIC HEALTH. THE ORDINANCE WILL BE AMENDED TO ENABLE REGULATIONS TO BE MADE TO BAN THE SALE OR MANUFACTURE OF SUCH PRODUCTS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE BAN WOULD RELATE TO +MOIST TOBACCO+ WHICH IS CHEWED OR SUCKED. THE BAN WOULD NOT INCLUDE ANY FORM OF SMOKING TOBACCO SUCH AS CIGARETTES, CIGARS OR PIPE TOBACCO, OR OTHER TYPES OF TRADITIONAL TOBACCO PRODUCTS, SUCH AS SNUFF.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ORALLY-TAKEN SMOKELESS TOBACCO PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN MARKETED IN RECENT YEARS IN THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES AND HAVE FOUND CONSIDERABLE APPEAL AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE. HOWEVER, EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES OVERSEAS HAVE DEMONSTRATED A STRONG ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE TAKING OF SMOKELESS TOBACCO AND THE INCIDENCE OF ORAL CANCER.

THE CANCER USUALLY DEVELOPS AT THE SITE MOST OFTEN IN CONTACT WITH THE TOBACCO AND CAN DEVELOP WITHIN FIVE YEARS, MUCH SOONER THAN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LUNG CANCER FROM CIGARETTE SMOKING.

/HE ADDED

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1986

- 3 -

HE ADDED THAT THE U.S. SURGEON GENERAL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF USING SMOKELESS TOBACCO HAD, AFTER CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL DATA, CONCLUDED THAT THE ORAL USE OF SMOKELESS TOBACCO REPRESENTED A SIGNIFICANT HEALTH RISK; THAT IT WAS NOT A SAFE SUBSTITUTE FOR SMOKING CIGARETTES; AND THAT IT COULD CAUSE CANCER AND A NUMBER OF ORAL DISEASES AND COULD ALSO LEAD TO NICOTINE ADDICTION AND DEPENDENCE.

IN RECENT CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION CONFIRMED THAT SMOKELESS TOBACCO LEADS TO CANCER OF THE MOUTH AND UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT.

+IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT, AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE, A BAN ON THESE PRODUCTS BE IMPOSED BEFORE THEY ARE INTRODUCED INTO HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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PROVISIONAL BOARD FOR LDC TO BE APPOINTED
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO APPOINT A PROVISIONAL BOARD FOR THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LDC) AND DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CORPORATION'S ORDINANCE ARE AT AN ADVANCED STAGE OF PREPARATION, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LAND AND BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MR CHENG HON-KWAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE, MR CHENG SAID FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE LDC WOULD BE RELEASED IN DUE COURSE.

MR CHENG THEN TURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS (UBW), WHICH HAD EARLIER CAUSED SOME CONTROVERSY WHEN A PROPOSAL WAS MADE REQUIRING THE OWNER OF A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TO EMPLOY A COMPETENT PERSON TO CERTIFY ANNUALLY THAT HE HAD INSPECTED THE EXTERNAL AND COMMON PARTS OF THE PROPERTY AND THAT NO ILLEGAL ALTERATIONS HAD BEEN MADE.

HE SAID THIS DID NOT RECEIVE A FAVOURABLE REACTION FROM THE PUBLIC, AND ARISING FROM THIS, ANOTHER LOOK HAD BEEN TAKEN AT THE ISSUE AND VARIOUS PROPOSALS MADE.

MR CHENG POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT POLICY ON UBW DATES BACK TO 1975 AND IT WAS NOW CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO ADJUST IT SO THAT IT RECOGNISED RESOURCE LIMITATIONS; ITS PRINCIPLE WOULD BE EASILY UNDERSTOOD BY THE PUBLIC; IT CONTAINED CLEAR GUIDELINES WHICH COULD BE PRACTICALLY IMPLEMENTED; AND ITS ENFORCEMENT WAS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

/UNDER THE

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1986

- 4 -

UNDER THE PROPOSED POLICY, WHICH WILL NOW GO TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION, COMPLAINT CASES WILL BE DIVIDED INTO HIGH AND LOWER PRIORITY.

+A KEY PART OF THE PROPOSAL IS THAT IMMEDIATE DEMOLITION UNITS BE ESTABLISHED TO TAKE PROMPT ACTION,+ HE SAID.

+SECTION 24 OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE WOULD BE AMENDED TO GIVE THE BUILDING AUTHORITY ADDITIONAL POWER TO DEMOLISH, REMOVE OR ALTER UBW WITHOUT FIRST SERVING AN ORDER IN WRITING ON AN OFFENDER.

+IN PRACTICE ONE OR TWO DAYS' NOTICE WILL BE GIVEN BEFORE DEMOLITION IS ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT. CERTAIN OTHER LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS ARE ALSO PROPOSED,+ HE SAID.

ON THE STATE OF THE PROPERTY MARKET, MR CHENG SAID THERE WAS A STRONG RECOVERY IN 1985 AND THE MARKET APPEARED TO HAVE ENTERED A PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1986.

PRICES AND RENTALS FOR MOST CATEGORIES OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY HAD GENERALLY STABILISED, WITH SOME DECREASES RECORDED FOR LARGER FLATS. THE DEMAND FOR SHOPPING SPACE, PARTICULARLY IN PRIME LOCATIONS, HAD HELD FIRM, ABSORBING AN EARLIER OVER-SUPPLY SITUATION.

THE MARKET IN OFFICE ACCOMMODATION HAD REMAINED STRONG, PARTICULARLY FOR HIGH QUALITY OFFICES IN PRIME LOCATIONS, AND THIS COULD BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNTIL LATE 1987 BECAUSE OF A TEMPORARY SHORTFALL IN PROVISION OF NEW SPACE.

FACTORY SPACE WAS STILL READILY AVAILABLE, AND MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO MEET DEMAND - THUS, INDUSTRIAL SALE AND RENTAL LEVELS REMAINED FAIRLY STATIC.

WITH REGARD TO LAND, HE SAID, SALES THROUGHOUT THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR HAD GENERATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION, ACHIEVING REASONABLE BUT NOT EXCESSIVE PRICES.

ON THE CONTINUING WORK ON THE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (TDS), WHICH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ORIGINALLY ENDORSED TWO YEARS AGO, MR CHENG SAID IT HAD BECOME NECESSARY TO UPDATE THE EARLIER RESULTS IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

+I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT THE RESULTS OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT IN THE LATEST STUDY HAVE CONFIRMED THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE STRATEGIC GROWTH AREAS REMAIN ALDRICH BAY RECLAMATION, HUNG HOM BAY RECLAMATION, WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, CENTRAL-WAN CHAI RECLAMATION, GREEN ISLAND RECLAMATION AND POK FU LAM, DESPITE THOSE CHANGES IN THE PLANNING DATA.

/+MUCH WORK

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1986

- 5 -

+MUCH WORK OF COURSE REMAINS TO BE DONE TO ASSESS FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPMENT OF THESE AREAS, INCLUDING TIMING AND EFFECT ON ENVIRONMENT. THIS WORK IS ON-GOING AND THE RESULTS WILL BE REGULARLY REVIEWED,+ MR CHENG SAID.

+A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF ALDRICH BAY HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGN IS PROCEEDING; THE ENGINEERING STUDY OF HUNG HOM BAY RECLAMATION HAS ALSO BEEN COMPLETED.

+THE FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF OTHER STRATEGIC GROWTH AREAS ARE CONTINUING ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE AND WILL BE PROGRESSIVELY COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1988. THE RESULTS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE CONTINUING TDS STUDIES AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHENG THEN SPOKE ABOUT THE PORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY STUDY WHICH WAS RECENTLY COMPLETED.

HE SAID IT CONCLUDED THAT THERE WERE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER EXPANSION OF PORT FACILITIES TO MEET BOTH THE LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM REQUIREMENTS UP TO AND BEYOND 2001.

REFERRING TO THE STUDY BY THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT INTO THE IMPACT OF CHINA'S NEW DEVELOPMENT AREAS (NDA'S) ON HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL LAND REQUIREMENT, MR CHENG SAID THIS WAS REQUESTED BY HIS PREDECESSOR, THE OBJECTIVES OF WHICH WERE TO IDENTIFY THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE IMPACT OF CHINA AND IN PARTICULAR HER NDA'S ON INDUSTRIAL LAND REQUIREMENT IN HONG KONG AND TO ASSESS THEIR POSSIBLE IMPACT IN SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERMS.

+THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INTERESTING FINDINGS IN THE STUDY, THE MAIN ONE BEING THAT HONG KONG AND CHINA ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A COMPLEMENTARY RATHER THAN AN COMPETITIVE RELATIONSHIP FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

MR CHENG POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE OPENING UP OF CHINA FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN 1979 SOME LOCAL MANUFACTURERS HAD DEVELOPED COMPLEMENTARY RELATIONS WITH CHINA'S NDA'S, SHIFTING PART OF THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS TO THE NDA'S.

+WE MUST ALSO REMEMBER CHINA IS A MARKET FOR HONG KONG PRODUCTS AND THE REPORT SAYS THAT EXPANDED CHINA MARKET HAS STIMULATED MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION IN HONG KONG.

+THERE IS ALSO A POSITIVE IMPACT OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL LAND REQUIREMENT ARISING FROM THE MORE ACTIVE ROLE CHINA IS TAKING IN INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG.+

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/6

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1986

- 6 -

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR JUNE
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THE NEW CPI(A) AND NEW CPI(B) (OCTOBER 84-SEPTEMBER 85 = 100) FOR JUNE 1986 WERE 103.8 AND 104.1 RESPECTIVELY, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

COMPARED WITH MAY 1986 AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, THE NEW CPI(A) INCREASED BY 0.9 PER CENT AND THE NEW CPI(B), BY 0.7 PER CENT.

THE 1979-80-BASED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) FOR JUNE 1986 WERE 164.3 AND 165.7 RESPECTIVELY, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 2.8 PER CENT AND 3.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER JUNE 1985. COMPARED WITH MAY 1986, CPI(A) INCREASED BY 0.8 PER CENT AND CPI(B), BY 0.6 PER CENT.

THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED JUNE 1986, AT 161.8 AND 162.6 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 2.8 PER CENT AND 3.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED JUNE 1985.

PRICE MOVEMENTS DESCRIBED BELOW ARE BASED ON THE NEW CPI SERIES.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JUNE 1986, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NEW CPI(A) AND NEW CPI(B) BOTH INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.4 PER CENT PER MONTH.

DURING JUNE, FOOD PRICES, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND LIVE POULTRY, INCREASED. PRIVATE DWELLING RENTALS AND RETAIL PRICES OF CIGARETTES ALSO WENT UP. TRANSPORT CHARGES ALSO INCREASED, REFLECTING THE FULL EFFECT OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY FARE REVISION EFFECTIVE FROM MAY 23, 1986. ON THE OTHER HAND, CHARGES FOR TOWNGAS AND ELECTRICITY AND RETAIL PRICES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DECREASED.

THE NEW CPI(A) AND THE NEW CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1984-85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

THE NEW CPI(A) REFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$2 000 AND \$6 499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME AND THE NEW CPI(B) BETWEEN \$6 500 AND \$9 999 A MONTH.

/CHANGES IN

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1986

- 7 -

CHANGES IN THE INDEXES FOR JUNE 1986 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, AS COMPARED WITH MAY 1986, ARE GIVEN BELOW.

(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 AVERAGE = 100)

SECTION	NEW CPI(C)		NEW CPI(B)	
	INDEX FOR JUN. 86	% CHANGE OVER MAY 86	INDEX FOR JUN. 86	% CHANGE OVER MAY 86
FOODSTUFFS	102.1	+1.8	102.3	+1.6
HOUSING	104.6	+0.3	104.1	+0.3
FUEL AND LIGHT	89.4	-3.7	89.8	-3.8
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	110.3	+1.7	110.0	+1.7
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	108.3	-0.2	109.3	-0.2
DURABLE GOODS	105.7	+0.2	105.0	+0.2
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	103.5	+0.3	104.2	+0.3
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	106.7	+0.5	105.9	+0.6
SERVICES	108.7	+0.1	108.3	+0.1
ALL ITEMS	103.8	+0.9	104.1	+0.7

COMPARED WITH MAY 1986, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 1.8 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(A) AND 1.6 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(B) MAINLY DUE TO THE INCREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, LIVE POULTRY, SALT-WATER FISH AND FRESH FRUIT. THE EFFECT OF MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS WAS INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT DECREASED BY 3.7 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(A) AND 3.8 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(B) DUE TO LOWER PRICES OF KEROSENE AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS AS WELL AS DOWNWARD FUEL COST ADJUSTMENTS FOR TOWNGAS AND ELECTRICITY.

/THE INDEX

THE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION) INCREASED BY 1.7 PER CENT IN BOTH NEW CPI(A) AND NEW CPI(B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICES OF CIGARETTES.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY 0.5 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(A) AND 0.6 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(B), REFLECTING THE FULL EFFECT OF THE MTR FARE REVISION EFFECTIVE FROM MAY 23, 1986.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER SECTIONS OF THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

(FIGURES HEREIN REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TO TWO DECIMAL PLACES).

MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE +CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT+ FOR JUNE 1986, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$3 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG; OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, ROOM 1904, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 317 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG; OR FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, BASKERVILLE HOUSE, DUDELL STREET, HONG KONG FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 3-7216512.

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PANEL KNITTERS REMINDED OF REGISTRATION CONDITIONS

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APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF HONG KONG ORIGIN FOR KNITWEAR, FOR WHICH +KNIT TO SHAPE+ PANELS ARE DECLARED TO HAVE BEEN KNITTED IN HONG KONG, SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE FROM AUGUST 1 TO SHOW THAT THE PANELS HAVE BEEN KNITTED BY FACTORIES REGISTERED WITH THE TRADE DEPARTMENT.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED FACTORIES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN REGISTERED THAT THEY SHOULD FULFIL THE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED AS CONDITIONS FOR REGISTRATION. THEY SHOULD ALSO CONTINUE TO FULFIL THEM FOR AS LONG AS THEY REMAIN REGISTERED.

IF A REGISTERED FACTORY DID NOT FULFIL ANY SUCH REQUIREMENT IT MIGHT LOSE ITS ELIGIBILITY TO DECLARE ITSELF AS A PANEL-KNITTER IN APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF HONG KONG ORIGIN FOR KNITWEAR, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT MIGHT BE STRUCK OFF THE DEPARTMENT'S REGISTER OF PANEL-KNITTING FACTORIES AND OTHER, MORE SERIOUS, ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN, HE ADDED.

FURTHER DETAILS ON THE PROCEDURES AND CONDITIONS FOR REGISTRATION MIGHT BE OBTAINED BY TELEPHONING THE TRADE DEPARTMENT AT 3-7222472 OR 3-7222473.

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THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1986

- 9 -

FIRST ASBESTOSIS VICTIM COMPENSATED

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A 69-YEAR-OLD WORKER WHO WAS SUFFERING FROM ASBESTOSIS HAS BEEN GRANTED \$83 000 FROM THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND.

HE IS THE FIRST ASBESTOSIS VICTIM TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION FROM THE FUND SINCE IT BEGAN OPERATION IN 1981, A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE WORKER RETIRED FOUR YEARS AGO AFTER HAVING SERVED IN THE SHIPBUILDING AND REPAIRING INDUSTRY FOR ABOUT 30 YEARS.

HE WAS CERTIFIED BY THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS MEDICAL BOARD IN MAY THIS YEAR TO HAVE SUFFERED FROM ASBESTOSIS WHICH IS A DISEASE OF PROGRESSIVE FIBROSIS OF THE LUNGS, WITH INCREASING RESPIRATORY DISABILITY.

+UNDER THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE, ANY PERSON DIAGNOSED TO BE SUFFERING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS INCLUDING SILICOSIS AND ASBESTOSIS, ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1981 WOULD BE QUALIFIED FOR COMPENSATION, SUBJECT TO A RESIDENCE QUALIFICATION OF FIVE YEARS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION FOR PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY IS \$341 000 AND THAT FOR DEATH IS \$299 000.+

SO FAR, \$78 MILLION HAS BEEN PAID OUT TO 1 407 SILICOTIC PERSONS OR THEIR DEPENDANTS.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT SILICOSIS AND ASBESTOSIS ARE THE ONLY TWO PNEUMOCONIOTIC DISEASES OF KNOWN CONCERN IN HONG KONG AND ARE COVERED UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

SILICOSIS IS MAINLY FOUND IN WORKERS IN QUARRIES, MINING, TUNNELLING, CONSTRUCTION AND MASONRY WORK, WHILE ASBESTOSIS IS USUALLY FOUND IN WORKERS IN AN INDUSTRY OR PROCESS IN WHICH ASBESTOS IS USED FOR INSULATION OR FIREPROOFING PURPOSES.

HE URGED WORKERS WHO SUSPECTED THEMSELVES TO BE SUFFERING FROM THE DISEASE TO APPROACH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION UNIT FOR ASSISTANCE.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE COMPENSATION SCHEME SHOULD BE MADE TO THE UNIT ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES OR AT TELEPHONES 3-687668 AND 3-7213744.

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/10

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1986

- 10 -

SEMINAR ON CRIME PREVENTION FOR MONG KOK
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A SEMINAR WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) EVENING FOR SOME 200 MONG KOK RESIDENTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON CRIME PREVENTION.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS ROSANNA TAM, WILL SPEAK ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF YOUTHS AND TRIAD SOCIETY.

+THE ANNUAL SEMINAR IS ORGANISED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE TO AROUSE RESIDENTS' AWARENESS OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AND TO TEACH THEM WAYS TO COMBAT CRIME,+ CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, MR JACOB CHAN, SAID.

A POLICE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU WILL ALSO SPEAK ON HOME SECURITY AND THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CRIME PREVENTION SEMINAR TOMORROW AT 8 PM ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR, FORTUNE RESTAURANT, 607 NATHAN ROAD.

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DETAILS OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT TEAM
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A BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM HAS BEEN SET UP IN MONG KOK TO GIVE ADVICE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT.

A PRESS BRIEFING WILL BE HELD AT 3 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF ITS WORK AND PLANS TO TACKLE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS.

MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS BRENDA FUNG, AND HOUSING MANAGER OF THE TEAM, MR CHONG SZE-CHIU, WILL ATTEND THE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESS BRIEFING.

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/11

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1986

- 11 -

DISCUSSION ON EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

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A REPORT ON AN EMPLOYMENT SURVEY IN NORTH DISTRICT WILL BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE SURVEY, CONDUCTED IN MAY WITH DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS, WAS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN NORTH DISTRICT.

RESULTS OF THE FINDINGS WILL SERVE AS A REFERENCE FOR THE BOARD AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED TO MAP OUT FUTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE DISTRICT.

MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE HONG KONG QUALITY-MARK SCHEME BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, MR RAYMOND POON AND MISS SANDIE YAN.

THEY WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING JOINT FUNCTIONS WITH THE FEDERATION TO PROMOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF QUALITY CONTROL AND QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE AN INTRODUCTION ON THE ORGANISATION STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND A PROPOSAL TO UTILISE VACANT LAND IN NORTH DISTRICT FOR AGRICULTURE PURPOSES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW AT 2.30 PM AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

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MURAL PAINTING FOR CHEUNG CHAU PLAYGROUND

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A SERIES OF CARTOON CHARACTERS AND PLANTS WILL BE PAINTED ON THE WALLS OF A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AT TUNG WAN IN CHEUNG CHAU DURING A MURAL PAINTING SESSION TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

A TOTAL OF 45 AMATEUR ARTISTS, AGED BETWEEN EIGHT AND 25, HAVE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER ON THE DESIGNS AND SKETCHING OF THE PROJECT.

ABOUT 30 OF THEM RECENTLY ATTENDED A THREE-DAY CAMP TO LEARN MURAL PAINTING SKILLS AND PREPARE FOR THE PROJECT.

/THE PAINTING

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1986

- 12 -

THE PAINTING COVERS A NUMBER OF AREAS, MEASURING ABOUT 60 SQUARE METRES, AND INCLUDES THE INSIDE AND THE OUTSIDE WALLS OF THE PLAYGROUND AS WELL AS SOME OF THE CHILDREN'S PLAYING FACILITIES.

THE WALL FACING TUNG WAN WILL DEPICT CARTOON CHARACTERS BASKING IN THE SUN WHILE THE INSIDE PAINTINGS WILL FEATURE TROPICAL PLANTS. ON THE PLAYING FACILITIES VARIOUS CARTOON CHARACTERS AND ROBOTS WILL BE PAINTED.

THE MURAL PAINTING PROJECT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE CARITAS SOCIAL CENTRE ON CHEUNG CHAU AS PART OF THE DISTRICT'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ANDREW PYNE, CHAIRMAN OF THE CHEUNG CHAU RURAL COMMITTEE, MR FUNG PAK-TAI, AND CARITAS SOCIAL WORK SUPERVISOR, MISS CHU MUI-WAH, WILL VISIT THE PAINTERS TOMORROW AT 10.30 AM AT TUNG WAN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MURAL PAINTING SESSION.

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NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES FOR FANLING, SHEUNG SHUI
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TWO NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM FRIDAY (JULY 25) TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES IN REMOTE VILLAGES IN FANLING AND SHEUNG SHUI.

THE NEW ROUTES ARE ROUTE 11 PLYING BETWEEN CHOI YUEN (CHOI YUEN ROAD) AND SHEUNG SHUI TSUEN, AND CIRCULAR ROUTE 12K OPERATING FROM FANLING KCR STATION TO LUNG YEUK TAU.

ROUTE 11 WILL OPERATE FROM 6 AM TO 10 PM AT A FREQUENCY OF 15 MINUTES WHILE ROUTE 12K WILL OPERATE FROM 6 AM TO 7 PM AT 10-MINUTE INTERVALS.

THE FARES ARE \$1.50 FOR ROUTE 11 AND \$1 FOR ROUTE 12K.

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/13

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1986

- 13 -

TEMPORARY CLOSURE ON KING'S ROAD

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TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE, THE SECTION OF KING'S ROAD BETWEEN KAM HONG STREET AND HEALTHY STREET WEST WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY (JULY 26) TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

DURING THE CLOSURE, THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL APPLY:

- * EASTBOUND FRANCHISED BUSES ON KING'S ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA SHU KUK STREET, JAVA ROAD AND MAN HONG STREET BEFORE RESUMING NORMAL ROUTEING.
- * WESTBOUND VEHICLES ON KING'S ROAD WILL HAVE TO TRAVEL VIA HEALTHY STREET WEST, TSAT TSZ MUI ROAD AND SHU KUK STREET BEFORE REJOINING KING'S ROAD.
- * TRAM SERVICES BETWEEN NORTH POINT AND SHAU KEI WAN WILL BE SUSPENDED AND ALL EASTBOUND TRAMS SCHEDULED TO OPERATE TO SHAU KEI WAN WILL TERMINATE AT NORTH POINT.

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