



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
HK AGAIN HAVING EXPORT-LED ECONOMIC GROWTH	1
INDUSTRIES SHOULD HAVE SAFETY OFFICERS	3
REPORT ON BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS PUBLISHED	5
MAIN SHA TIN TOWN CENTRE SITE TO BE TENDERED	6
FMO EXPANSION LIKELY	7
SURVEY OF ACTIVE SEAFARERS	8
EDUCATION DIRECTOR LEARNS MORE ABOUT INDUSTRIAL NEEDS	8
RETIREMENT OF LONG-SERVING GAS STAFF	9
SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS AUCTION	10
WATER CUT	10

HK AGAIN HAVING EXPORT-LED ECONOMIC GROWTH

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ECONOMIC GROWTH IN 1979 WAS ONCE AGAIN EXPORT-LED AND THIS HAS PROBABLY CONTINUED TO BE SO IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1980, ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT RELEASED TODAY.

THE REPORT BRINGS UP-TO-DATE THE ANALYSES IN THE ECONOMIC BACKGROUND DOCUMENT PUBLISHED ON BUDGET DAY. BESIDES ASSESSING ECONOMIC TRENDS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1980, IT REVISES THE ANALYSES OF THE ECONOMY'S BEHAVIOUR IN 1979 IN THE LIGHT OF THE LATEST INFORMATION.

THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC DEMAND SLOWED DOWN IN 1979 AND AS A RESULT THE IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE DEMAND FOR AND THE SUPPLY OF DOMESTIC RESOURCES STARTED TO CORRECT ITSELF.

THE MOST CONSPICUOUS SIGNS OF SUCH A CHANGE WERE IN THE LABOUR SECTOR WHERE CONDITIONS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1980 WERE LESS TIGHT THAN THEY WERE A YEAR AGO, IT SAYS.

AS FOR INFLATION, IT SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS A REAL PROSPECT THAT DOMESTICALLY GENERATED INFLATION WILL EASE OFF.

ALTHOUGH IMPORTED INFLATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE A FEATURE, IT POINTS OUT THAT MOVEMENTS IN THE EXCHANGE RATE IN THE PAST NINE MONTHS OR SO HAVE BEEN EXERCISING A FAVOURABLE EFFECT ON IMPORT PRICES AND SO THE PROSPECTS ARE THAT INFLATION IS UNLIKELY TO CONTINUE AT ITS PRESENT RATE.

THERE IS CONCERN ABOUT THE UNDERLYING GROWTH RATES OF THE MONETARY AGGREGATES, BUT IT POINTS OUT THAT IT IS NOT EASY TO IDENTIFY THE PRECISE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY OF MOVEMENTS IN THESE AGGREGATES, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE STRUCTURE OF THE FINANCIAL SECTOR IS CHANGING RELATIVELY RAPIDLY.

THE REPORT CONTAINS INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE LABOUR SECTOR, AND PRODUCTION AND PRICES, PRECEDED BY A CHAPTER GIVING THE OVERALL VIEW.

ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, IT EMPHASISES THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN 1979 WAS HIGHER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS AND THAT THIS CONTINUED TO BE THE SITUATION IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, SO THAT THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+, THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY RECEIPTS FROM TOTAL EXPORTS, HAS BEEN NARROWING.

IT ADDS HOWEVER THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMIES OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS ARE SUCH THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY UNCERTAIN, SUGGESTING THAT THE GAP MAY STOP NARROWING IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, CONSISTENT WITH THE VIEW TAKEN BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS SPEECH ON APRIL 16, 1980 CONCLUDING THE BUDGET DEBATE.

ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE REPORT INDICATES THAT THE GROWTH RATES OF THE MONEY SUPPLY AND OF TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES HAVE ACCELERATED DURING 1979, AND THAT, EVEN ALLOWING FOR SEASONAL FACTORS, THEY MIGHT HAVE CONTINUED TO DO SO IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF 1980.

IT ARGUES HOWEVER THAT IS NOT EASY TO IDENTIFY THE PRECISE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY OF SUCH MOVEMENTS IN THE MONETARY AGGREGATES AND THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHAT IS THE OPTIMUM GROWTH RATE OF THE MONEY SUPPLY WHEN THE STRUCTURE OF THE FINANCIAL SECTOR IN HONG KONG AT THIS POINT IN TIME IS CHANGING SO RAPIDLY. IT POINTS OUT THAT THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR HAS REMAINED REMARKABLY STABLE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1980.

TURNING TO THE LABOUR SECTOR, THE REPORT SUGGESTS THAT A CLOSER BALANCE BETWEEN THE SUPPLY OF LABOUR AND THE DEMAND FOR IT WAS STARTING TO DEVELOP IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1979. IN SUPPORT OF THIS VIEW, IT INDICATES THAT THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR- THE FIRST INCREASE RECORDED SINCE ESTIMATES FIRST BECAME AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER 1975.

THE SUDDEN INCREASE IN THE SUPPLY OF LABOUR AS A RESULT OF THE ARRIVAL OF LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IS THOUGHT TO BE ONE OF THE FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS.

IT EMPHASISES THAT, WHILE THIS HAS BEEN USEFUL IN EASING THE LABOUR SHORTAGE IN THE SHORT-TERM, THE UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES ON THE ECONOMY OF SUCH ARRIVALS ARE OF MUCH GREATER SIGNIFICANCE.

ON THE SUBJECT OF PRODUCTION, THE REPORT GIVES PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN RELATION TO THE PROPERTY MARKET.

IT INDICATES THAT THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR WAS PROBABLY OPERATING AGAINST ITS CAPACITY LIMITS AND THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF OUTPUT IN THE NEAR FUTURE WILL, TO A LARGE EXTENT, BE DETERMINED BY THE RATE OF EXPANSION OF THE SECTOR'S CAPACITY.

IT ADDS THAT, AS THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY UNDUE SHORTAGE OF UNSKILLED LABOUR IN 1980 AND AS THERE WILL BE ROOM FOR AN INCREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY, BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT WILL PROBABLY EXPAND IN 1980 AT A RATE FASTER THAN THAT IN 1979.

IT SUGGESTS THAT THE PROPERTY MARKET WAS MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF BETTER BALANCE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1980 WITH THE PRICES OF BOTH COMPLETED AND UNCOMPLETED FLATS SHOWING SIGNS OF LEVELLING OFF. IT ALSO FORECASTS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE SUPPLY OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES IN 1980.

AS FOR PRICES, THE REPORT SUGGESTS THAT, ALTHOUGH THE RATE OF INFLATION ACCELERATED IN 1979 AND IN THE BEGINNING MONTHS OF 1980, THIS ACCELERATION WAS NOT DUE TO ANY DETERIORATION IN THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE DEMAND FOR DOMESTIC RESOURCES AND THE SUPPLY OF THEM.

INSTEAD, SINCE THE SECOND HALF OF 1979, A CLOSER BALANCE HAS STARTED TO DEVELOP AND THE REPORT FORECASTS THAT THIS IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE IN 1980.

/HOWEVER, IT

HOWEVER, IT POINTS OUT THAT THE RATE OF INCREASE IN WORLD PRICES IN GENERAL AND FOR OIL IN PARTICULAR HAS BEEN HIGHER THAN EXPECTED, AND SO HONG KONG HAS BEEN IMPORTING INFLATION.

COMMENTING ON THE REPORT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THE ECONOMY ON AN EXPORT-LED GROWTH PATH AGAIN.

HE THOUGHT THE CLOSER BALANCE BETWEEN THE DEMAND FOR DOMESTIC RESOURCES AND THE SUPPLY OF THEM WOULD PROVIDE A DAMPENING EFFECT ON INFLATION, BUT HE ADDED THAT WHILE THE ECONOMY WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE TO DO WELL IN THE COMING MONTHS, PROSPECTS FOR THE LAST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR REMAINED UNCERTAIN.

THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1980 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT \$8 A COPY.

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INDUSTRIES SHOULD HAVE SAFETY OFFICERS * * * * *

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY HOLDING CONSULTATIONS WITH INTERESTED PARTIES BEFORE INTRODUCING FIRM PROPOSALS FOR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE LARGE COMPANIES IN THE MORE HAZARDOUS INDUSTRIES TO EMPLOY FULL-TIME SAFETY OFFICERS.

COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR J.N. HENDERSON, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE MOVE, BEING CONSIDERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD'S COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION, WAS JUST ONE OF MANY STEPS BEING TAKEN TO STOP THE RISING NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN HONG KONG.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS LONG MAINTAINED THAT HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY SHOULD NOT BE ACHIEVED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE LIVES AND LIMBS OF ITS WORKFORCE, AND IS DETERMINED TO USE EVERY AVAILABLE MEANS WITHIN ITS POWER TO REDUCE THE TOLL OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS,+ HE SAID.

MR HENDERSON, SPEAKING AT A ROTARY CLUB OF HONGKONG LUNCHEON, ALSO WELCOMED PROPOSALS TO INTRODUCE TWO PERMANENT CORONERS AND THEREFORE SPEEDING UP INQUEST PROCEDURES.

+THIS HAS MY FULLEST SUPPORT, AND MUCH MORE CAN IN FUTURE BE ACHIEVED BY THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE WITH THE OPEN INQUIRY THAT IS THE CORONER'S PEROGATIVE IN EXPOSING CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS.+

HE ADDED THAT DESPITE THESE EFFORTS THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WAS STILL INCREASING.

+THESE INCREASE, HOWEVER, MUST BE SEEN IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE EXPANDING INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE ESPECIALLY IN THE CONSTRUCTION FIELD WHERE EXPERIENCED LABOUR IS BECOMING DILUTED IN ITS SUDDEN EXPANSION.

+FURTHER, REPORTING OF ACCIDENTS HAS IMPROVED MARKEDLY IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, SO THAT ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE 'APPARENT' INCREASE IS DUE TO THIS FACTOR, AT LAST WE ARE SATISFIED THAT AT LEAST THE FULL PICTURE IS BEING REVEALED. ALTHOUGH, OF COURSE THE BULK OF ACCIDENTS REPORTED ARE QUITE MINOR.

+THE REASONS FOR THE INCREASING TREND ARE NOT DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY.

+FOR AN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PROGRAMME TO SUCCEED THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL.

+I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT BOTH EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS ARE NOW BEGINNING TO SHOW MORE INTEREST IN THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS.

+HOWEVER, SHOWING INTEREST ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH- IT MUST BE BACKED UP BY POSITIVE STEPS TOWARDS THE COMMON GOAL.

+EMPLOYERS MUST PROVIDE A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOP PROPER SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND INSTRUCT THEIR EMPLOYEES IN SAFE PRACTICES. WORKERS MUST ABIDE BY SAFETY RULES AND USE THE SAFETY EQUIPMENT PROVIDED FOR THEM,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE PROPOSAL REGARDING SAFETY OFFICERS, MR HENDERSON SAID THAT EMPLOYERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE MORE HAZARDOUS INDUSTRIES, WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO EMPLOY SAFETY OFFICERS AS PART OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS REGARDING ACCIDENT PREVENTION.

THE DUTIES OF A SAFETY OFFICER WOULD BRING HIM INTO CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH BOTH THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE AND THE EMPLOYEES IN THE UNDERTAKING, AND HE WOULD NEED THEIR ASSISTANCE AND CO-OPERATION TO CARRY OUT HIS DUTIES PROPERLY.

+TO BE FULLY EFFECTIVE THE SAFETY OFFICER SHOULD BE A QUALIFIED FULL-TIME MEMBER OF THE STAFF. THIS WILL HELP DEVELOP A SENSE OF PROFESSIONALISM IN THE JOB AND ENHANCE THE SAFETY OFFICER'S AUTHORITY AND INFLUENCE,+ SAID MR HENDERSON.

LEGISLATION REQUIRING THE EMPLOYMENT OF SAFETY OFFICERS WAS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, JAPAN AND SINGAPORE, HE ADDED.

TO PRODUCE MORE QUALIFIED SAFETY OFFICERS, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC INTRODUCED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR A ONE-YEAR PART-TIME EVENING TRAINING COURSE FOR JUNIOR MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL IN THE INDUSTRY.

BY THIS SUMMER, THE FIRST BATCH OF ABOUT 30 SAFETY OFFICERS WOULD COMPLETE THE COURSE.

MR HENDERSON FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAFETY OFFICERS WAS RATHER SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL OFFICERS.

/+NOT LONG

+NOT LONG AGO PERSONNEL MANAGERS WERE RARELY HEARD OF IN HONG KONG. NOW THERE IS A LARGE AND INCREASING NUMBER OF PERSONS TRAINED IN PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT WHO ARE FULFILLING AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION IN OUR FAST GROWING ECONOMY.

+I HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE AN EQUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF SAFETY OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

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REPORT ON BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS PUBLISHED

THE RESULTS OF A QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY HAVE INDICATED THAT HONG KONG BUSINESSES PASSED THE SEASONALLY LOW FIRST QUARTER OF 1980 IN A FASHION NOT TOO DIFFERENT FROM THAT EXPECTED, AND ARE ANTICIPATING IMPROVEMENTS TO COME IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

A REPORT ON THE SURVEY, HELD IN APRIL, HAS BEEN COMPILED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AND IS AVAILABLE AT \$3 A COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT THE GPO BUILDING IN CONNAUGHT PLACE.

ABOUT 900 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1980, AND THEIR BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER.

IN THE MANUFACTURING DIVISION, 'FOOD, BEVERAGE, TOBACCO', 'ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES' AND 'ELECTRONICS' HAD PREDICTED SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER, BUT THIS IMPROVEMENT DID NOT MATERIALIZE. NEVERTHELESS, THESE SECTORS ARE CONFIDENT OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE COMING QUARTER.

THE REST OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTORS HAD PREDICTED SOME DETERIORATION IN THE FIRST QUARTER. 'MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES', HOWEVER, HAD AN IMPROVED PERFORMANCE, WHILE 'PRINTING' AND 'FABRICATED PRODUCTS' DID NOT DO AS BADLY AS EXPECTED. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF 'TEXTILES', WHICH EXPECTS FURTHER DETERIORATION IN THE COMING QUARTER, SECTORS ARE PREDICTING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAD STEADY BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND EXPECTS THIS TO CONTINUE INTO THE SECOND QUARTER.

FOR SERVICES, THE 'RESTAURANTS' SECTOR, WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED A SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER, REPORTED STEADY BUSINESS INSTEAD. BECAUSE OF SEASONALITY, IT PREDICTS A LOW SECOND QUARTER. 'WHOLESALE/RETAIL TRADE', WHICH DID A LITTLE BETTER IN THE FIRST QUARTER THAN EXPECTED, IS ALSO MOVING INTO A SEASONAL LOW. NEITHER OF THOSE SECTORS, HOWEVER, SEEM TO DISPLAY ANY PESSIMISM. ON THE OTHER HAND, HOTELS ARE MOVING OUT OF A LOW FIRST QUARTER INTO A HIGH SECOND QUARTER.

THE 'TRANSPORTATION' SECTOR DID MUCH BETTER IN THE FIRST QUARTER THAN IT HAD EXPECTED, AND EXPECTS THE FAVOURABLE BUSINESS TREND TO CONTINUE. 'BANKS' AND 'MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS SERVICES' SHOULD ALSO CONTINUE WITH THEIR FAVOURABLE TRENDS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE DATA, OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, WERE BASICALLY INTENDED TO FACILITATE A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HONG KONG.

APART FROM A LIMITED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REQUIRING ANSWERS IN QUANTITATIVE TERMS, FIRMS WERE ASKED TO COMPARE THE QUARTER JUST PAST WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND SIMILARLY FOR THE FORTHCOMING ONE, AND ONLY HAD TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, A CERTAIN VARIABLE WAS 'UP', 'SAME' OR 'DOWN'.

+IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, CONSIDERABLE RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN THE INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS, AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS, AND THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE PROBABLY AFFECTED CONSIDERABLY BY SEASONALITY,+ HE STRESSED.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, CONTAINING AN ANALYSIS OF AND STATISTICAL TABLES ON VARIOUS ECONOMIC VARIABLES, HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO FIRMS TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY AND OTHER BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS.

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MAIN SHA TIN TOWN CENTRE SITE TO BE TENDERED

THE LAND ON WHICH A LARGE PART OF THE COMMERCIAL AREA OF SHA TIN TOWN CENTRE WILL BE BUILT IS TO BE OFFERED BY TENDER TO HOLDERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS ISSUED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

THE TENDER WILL BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER.

THE 25 000 SQUARE METRE SITE IS BETWEEN THE RAILWAY STATION AND THE SHING MUN RIVER.

DEVELOPMENT WILL FORM THE +CORE+ OF THE TOWN CENTRE IN THE SHAPE OF A COMMERCIAL COMPLEX WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BECOME THE REGIONAL SHOPPING AND CULTURAL CENTRE FOR THE EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE COMPLEX WILL BE AT THE HUB OF THE TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE IN SHA TIN, LINKED ON TWO LEVELS TO THE RAILWAY STATION, WHICH IS CURRENTLY UNDER RE-CONSTRUCTION.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 400 000 PEOPLE WILL PASS THROUGH THE INTERCHANGE EACH DAY AS THE NEW TOWN, WHICH WILL HAVE A POPULATION OF 750 000, IS COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE DECADE.

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INCLUDED IN THE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX AREA WILL BE A BUS STATION FOR INTERNAL CITY ROUTES AND ADJACENT TO THE RAILWAY STATION WILL BE A FURTHER BUS STATION FOR EXTERNAL SERVICES.

THERE WILL ALSO BE TWO 800-SEAT CINEMAS.

THE GROSS COMMERCIAL FLOOR AREA OF THE COMPLEX WILL BE 86 000 SQUARE METRES.

A NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN SAID THE WORD +PRIME+ TENDED TO BE OVERWORKED WHEN APPLIED TO LAND IN HONG KONG, BUT +IF EVER THERE WAS A PRIME SITE, THIS IS ONE.+

HE SAID THE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX WAS THE SECOND PHASE OF THE TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT.

PROGRESS ON INITIAL STAGES OF THE FIRST PHASE, WHICH INCLUDES DEVELOPMENT OF EIGHT RESIDENTIAL TOWERS OVER THREE PODIUM DECKS, IS NOW CLEARLY VISIBLE.

PHASE III IS ALSO MAINLY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT. PHASES I AND III WILL PROVIDE HOMES IN THE TOWN CENTRE FOR 40 000 TO 50 000 PEOPLE.

THE FOURTH PHASE WILL COMPRISE THREE MEDIUM-RISE COMMERCIAL OFFICE BLOCKS, A MAGISTRACY AND A CULTURAL COMPLEX. ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS PHASE IS A TOWN PARK FRONTING THE SHING MUN RIVER, WHICH GOVERNMENT HAS JUST ANNOUNCED WILL BE CLEANED UP AND MADE INTO A BOAT PARK STRETCHING FOR FIVE MILES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID FURTHER DETAILS OF THE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE ANNOUNCED IN A FEW WEEKS. CONTROL DRAWINGS CLEARLY DEFINING ALL ASPECTS WERE NOW BEING PREPARED.

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FMO EXPANSION LIKELY

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THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN, SAID THIS TUESDAY EVENING IT WAS LIKELY THAT IN THE YEARS AHEAD, THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION WOULD INCREASE ITS MARKETING CAPACITY, AND REPROVISION AND REBUILD SOME MARKETS TO ALLOW FOR DEVELOPMENTS.

IN A DINNER ADDRESS TO FISH MERCHANTS ASSOCIATIONS, MR RIDDELL-SWAN RECALLED THAT 25 YEARS AGO THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION HANDLED 41 000 TONNES OF FRESH FISH A YEAR WHEREAS IT NOW HANDLES OVER 80 000 TONNES.

HE SAID THAT MARKETING ACTIVITIES HAD ALSO EXPANDED TO MEET INCREASED DEMAND AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION IS NOW OPERATING SEVEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKETS LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

MR RIDDELL-SWAN THANKED THE FISH MERCHANTS ASSOCIATIONS FOR THEIR VERY VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL FISHING INDUSTRY AND ASSURED THEM THAT THE ORGANISATION WAS CONTINUALLY REVIEWING THE NEEDS OF THE TRADE.

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SURVEY OF ACTIVE SEAFARERS

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THE SEAMEN'S RECRUITING OFFICE (SRO) OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL SHORTLY CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED SEAMEN WHO ARE STILL WILLING TO GO TO SEA WITHIN SPECIFIED TIME LIMITS.

QUESTIONNAIRES WILL BE SENT TO ALL REGISTERED SEAMEN WHO ARE NOW CURRENTLY INACTIVE.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS, AT THE END OF MARCH, 53 958 PEOPLE WERE INCLUDED IN PART I OF THE SEAMEN REGISTER. THEY HAD EITHER BEEN TO SEA DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS OR HAD HAD PRE-SEA TRAINING OR ACCEPTABLE SHORE EXPERIENCE TO QUALIFY FOR SERVICE.

ANOTHER 29 886 SEAMEN, WHOSE NAMES WERE LISTED WITH LICENSED CREW DEPARTMENTS IN SHIPPING COMPANIES, WERE INCLUDED IN PART IV OF THE REGISTER.

THERE WERE IN ADDITION, 2 089 IN PART III OF THE REGISTER WHO NEITHER HAD PRE-SEA TRAINING NOR ACCEPTABLE SHORE EXPERIENCE.

OF THE OVER 85 000 SEAMEN REGISTERED WITH THE SRO ONLY 19 000 ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SEAFARING.

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EDUCATION DIRECTOR LEARNS MORE ABOUT INDUSTRIAL NEEDS

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR KENNETH TOPLEY THIS MORNING VISITED TWO FACTORIES IN KWUN TONG WHERE HE TALKED TO THE MANAGERS, ENGINEERS AND WORKERS.

THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO GATHER VIEWS OF INDUSTRIALISTS AND TO FAMILIARISE HIMSELF WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INDUSTRIAL FIELD SO AS TO GEAR HIS DEPARTMENT'S TECHNICAL INSTITUTES TO THEIR NEEDS IN LINE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION REPORT.

MR TOPLEY FIRST WENT TO THE CHINA COLD STORAGE AND ENGINEERING CO. LTD., AND WAS MET BY MR LAWRENCE FREED, THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING, WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM ON A TOUR OF THE COMPANY'S AIR-CONDITIONER SECTION.

AFTERWARDS, MR TOPLEY VISITED THE EASTERN TIME LTD., WHERE HE OBTAINED FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS IN THE COMPANY OF MR K.K. LEE, THE WORKS MANAGER OF THE FACTORY.

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TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1980

- 9 -

RETIREMENT OF LONG-SERVING CAS STAFF

TWO LONG-SERVING MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES STAFF WHO HAVE HELPED SET UP THE CAS CADET CAMP AT YUEN TUN AND HELPED PROVIDE FACILITIES AT KAI TAK NORTH FOR THE REFUGEES CAMP WILL BE RETIRING THIS WEEK.

THEY ARE MR WONG WING-WO AND MR LEE KAN-YUEN WHO TOGETHER HAVE HAD A COMBINED SERVICE OF 48 YEARS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

MR WONG JOINED THE CAS IN 1953 AS A CARETAKER AND IS NOW A STAFF SERGEANT IN THE CADET CORPS.

HE IS A SPECIALIST IN HEAVY RESCUE AND HAS UNDERTAKEN MANY HAZARDOUS MISSIONS OVER THE YEARS.

HE HAS ALSO BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING THE CADET CORPS' 23.5 HECTARE SITE AT YUEN TUN WHERE MANY OF THE FACILITIES WERE INSTALLED UNDER HIS WATCHFUL SUPERVISION.

HIS FATHERLY GUIDANCE WILL BE SADLY MISSED IN THE CORPS.

MR LEE WAS EMPLOYED BY THE CAS IN 1959 AS A LABOURER BUT HIS SKILL IN METAL WORK, MASONRY AND CARPENTRY WAS QUICKLY RECOGNISED. HE WAS PROMOTED TO ARTISAN THE NEXT YEAR.

A VERY SKILFUL WORKER HIMSELF, HE CARRIED OUT WITH A SMALL STAFF IN ALMOST RECORD TIME MANY REPAIRS JOBS AT THE OLD RAF CAMP SO THAT IT COULD BE READY TO RECEIVE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHEN THE CAS FIRST SET UP A CAMP FOR THEM AT KAI TAK NORTH.

MR LEE HAS ALSO HELPED TO SET UP THE MANY FACILITIES AT THE YUEN TUN CADET CAMP.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE CAS CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, MR JOHN FORTUNE WILL PRESENT FAREWELL GIFTS TO MR WONG AND MR LEE ON BEHALF OF THEIR COLLEAGUES THIS FRIDAY (MAY 23). THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE CAS HEADQUARTERS AT CAROLINE HILL AT 4 PM. YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CEREMONY.

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TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1980

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SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS AUCTION
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ANOTHER BATCH OF SPECIAL CAR REGISTRATION NUMBERS WILL BE AUCTIONED ON SATURDAY (MAY 24) AT 10 AM IN THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

A TOTAL OF 30 SPECIAL NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE :

AR 1971	CC 9888	CD 336	CC 3833	CC 6848
CC 2895	AA 14	CD 1828	CC 3388	CC 9919
CC 6888	CC 3	CC 6688	CE 1	CD 338
CD 928	CC 101	CC 66	AR 71	CC 5331
CD 633	CC 7202	CD 99	CD 233	CC 7873
CD 283	CC 7890	CC 6887	CC 9110	CC 2888

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY IN CASH OR BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS.

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

PROCEEDS WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 53RD ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO AN AREA OF TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR SIX HOURS ON FRIDAY (MAY 23) ENDING AT 6 AM FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA IS BOUNDED BY KIMBERLY ROAD, CARNARVON ROAD, HUMPHREY AVENUE AND NATHAN ROAD.

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