



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HONG KONG : PRESENT DAY REALITIES

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THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS REMAIN DETERMINED TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE TALKS OVER THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

THIS WAS EMPHASISED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, IN HIS OPENING SPEECH ENTITLED 'HONG KONG : PRESENT DAY REALITIES' THIS (MONDAY) EVENING AT THE HONG KONG CONFERENCE OF THE STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

+YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT THERE IS NO ISSUE TO WHICH THE GOVERNOR AND HIS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACCORD HIGHER PRIORITY OR TO WHICH THEY DEVOTE MORE TIME AND EFFORT; AND THE COMMITMENT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BOTH TO HONG KONG AND TO THE SEARCH FOR THAT SETTLEMENT.....+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

ON HONG KONG'S IMPRESSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT IT HAD BEEN BASED ON A POLICY UNDER WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD DELIBERATELY LEFT THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL SECTORS FREE AND UNFETTERED TO COMPETE IN DOMESTIC AND WORLD MARKETS.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAD SOUGHT TO REGULATE ONLY WHERE THE ORDERLY CONDUCT OF BUSINESS, FAIR TREATMENT OF THE WORKFORCE AND THE GOOD NAME OF HONG KONG SO REQUIRED.

+BUT WE MUST NOT SUCCUMB TO THE DECEPTIVE TEMPTATION TO SEEK SHORT TERM ALLEVIATIONS OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF PARTICULAR SECTORS WITHOUT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THOSE MEASURES AND OF THEIR LONGER TERM IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE.

+WE MUST HAVE REGARD TO THE MIDDLE AND LONGER TERM AND TO THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE,+ SIR EDWARD EMPHASISED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD SHOWN ITS CONFIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE IN THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY -- BY CONTINUING ITS OWN INVESTMENT IN A MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AND IN FAR REACHING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

IT WOULD SPEND \$25 BILLION ON APPROVED CAPITAL PROJECTS DESPITE SHORT-TERM BUDGETARY DIFFICULTIES, SIR EDWARD PLEDGED.

FOR THE 1983-84 FISCAL YEAR ALONE, THE GOVERNMENT HAD COMMITTED \$3 BILLION FOR NEW CAPITAL WORKS, ABOUT THE SAME ANNUAL AVERAGE OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, HE SAID.

BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTUAL EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL WORKS LAST YEAR WAS \$6.5 BILLION, THE HIGHEST EVER, AND THAT THE CURRENT YEAR'S TOTAL WAS EXPECTED TO EXCEED THIS RECORD HIGH BY ABOUT \$1 BILLION.

SIR EDWARD STRESSED THAT THE FIGURES DID NOT INCLUDE THE SUBSTANTIAL SPENDING ON PUBLIC HOUSING WHICH ABSORBED A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET.

SINCE THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME WAS LAUNCHED IN 1954, A TOTAL OF 136 ESTATES HAVE BEEN BUILT, PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION FOR NEARLY HALF A MILLION FAMILIES OR 43 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION.

CURRENTLY, SOME 124 000 FLATS ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND MANY FURTHER ESTATES ARE AT THE DESIGN OR PLANNING STAGE.

POINTING OUT THAT THE EXISTING NEW TOWNS WOULD BE FULLY DEVELOPED BY THE END OF THE PRESENT DECADE, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES ON THE NEXT MAJOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

+DECISIONS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN THEREAFTER WHICH WILL DETERMINE THE PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE DECADE FROM 1991 TO 2001.

+WE ARE DEALING HERE NOT JUST WITH THE LOCATION OF A HOUSING ESTATE OR TWO.

+OUR PLANS ARE AMBITIOUS AND WE SHALL PURSUE THEM TO THE FULL EXTENT THAT OUR RESOURCES PERMIT,+ SIR EDWARD EMPHASISED.

ON HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY TO THE US, WERE PICKING UP AND THE GROWTH RATE OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT FOR 1983 SHOULD SHOW AN IMPROVEMENT OVER 1982.

+THE ACTUAL EXTENT OF THE IMPROVEMENT WILL DEPEND, AS IT ALWAYS HAS, ON THE GROWTH RATE OF DEMAND BY THE REST OF THE WORLD FOR THE GOODS AND SERVICES THAT HONG KONG PROVIDES.

+AT THE MOMENT, I AM GLAD TO SAY, THE PROSPECTS LOOK GOOD FOR RENEWED GROWTH,+ HE STATED.

WITH WORLD ECONOMIC RECOVERY HOPEFULLY UNDERWAY, THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF ALLOWING THE ECONOMY TO MAKE ITS OWN ADJUSTMENTS HAD AGAIN SHOWN ITS WORTH, SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT.

MANY FIRMS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WERE ALSO SHOWING THEIR FAITH IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG IN THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY -- BY CONTINUED INVESTMENT AND EXPANSION OF THEIR OPERATION HERE, SIR EDWARD SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS PART WILL CONTINUE TO INVEST IN BOTH THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE TERRITORY'S INFRASTRUCTURE.

+IN SHORT, WE KNOW WHERE WE WANT TO GO, AND WE SHALL NOT BE DEFLECTED BY ROUGH WEATHER, FROM DOING OUR UTMOST TO GET THERE,+ SIR EDWARD STRESSED.

RECALLING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS HAD SYSTEMATICALLY REVIEWED EACH SECTOR OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, SIR EDWARD SAID, +PERSONALLY I BELIEVE THE QUESTION OF EDUCATION TO BE OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

/+WE SHALL

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+WE SHALL NOT MAINTAIN OUR PLACE IN THIS COMPETITIVE WORLD WITHOUT A WELL EDUCATED WORKING POPULATION POSSESSING APPROPRIATE PROFESSIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL SKILLS; AND WE MUST MAINTAIN THE GREAT ADVANTAGE WHICH HONG KONG ENJOYS OF BILINGUALISM IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE.+

REFERRING TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE PROPERTY MARKET, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THIS WAS CAUSED BY THE NORMAL OPERATION OF THE MARKET AND COMMERCIAL MISJUDGEMENT, AND NOT BY GOVERNMENT ACTIONS.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS, IN FACT, DONE WHAT IT CAN TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS ON THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE.

+IT HAS MAINTAINED ITS OWN BUILDING PROGRAMMES. OTHERWISE THE IMPACT ON THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH GREATER,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

NOR WAS THE SITUATION ALL GLOOM, HE SAID, POINTING TO A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PRIVATELY FINANCED CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURE STILL BEING UNDERTAKEN AND THE SPENDING TO COME, AS INDICATED BY FUTURE BUILDING PLANS.

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LIFEGUARD PRAISED FOR BRAVERY

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A NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT LIFEGUARD, MR LEUNG YIU-FAI, WAS PRAISED TODAY FOR DEVOTION TO DUTY AND BRAVERY FOR HIS PART IN A RESCUE OPERATION AT TONG FUK BEACH, LANTAU ISLAND, ON SUNDAY (JUNE 26).

MR LEUNG WAS PRAISED BY URBAN SERVICES OFFICER, MR IP KIT-TIT, AT QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, WHERE THE LIFEGUARD IS RECOVERING FROM RIB INJURIES SUFFERED IN THE RESCUE OPERATION.

MR IP WAS ACCOMPANIED BY NTSD HEADQUARTERS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WELFARE, MISS KATIE CHING, AND THE DISTRICT AMENITY OFFICER OF ISLANDS, MR WONG CHING-AU.

MR LEUNG WAS AMONG FOUR LIFEGUARDS STATIONED AT UPPER CHEUNG SHA BEACH WHO RACED TO TONG FUK BEACH, A NON-GAZETTED BEACH WHERE NO LIFE-SAVING SERVICE IS PROVIDED, ON LEARNING THAT A COUPLE WERE IN DIFFICULTY WHILE SWIMMING IN ROUGH SEAS SHORTLY BEFORE 2 PM ON SUNDAY.

ON HELPING TO RESCUE TWO MEN FROM THE ROUGH SEAS IN THE AREA, AND THEN LEARNING THAT A THIRD PERSON, A WOMAN, WAS MISSING, MR LEUNG LEFT THE RESCUE PARTY AND CONTINUED IN HIS CANOE IN SEARCH OF THE WOMAN. HOWEVER, HIS CANOE CAPSIZED IN THE ROUGH SEAS AND STRONG WINDS, MR LEUNG HAD TO BE HELPED ASHORE BY HIS COLLEAGUES AND SENT TO HOSPITAL.

THE WOMAN SWIMMER WAS NOT FOUND.

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SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL FOR SECOND QUARTER

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CONDUCT A SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY NEXT MONTH.

THE SURVEY RESULTS WILL BE USEFUL IN PROVIDING SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET IN HONG.KONG.

THE SURVEY WILL COVER ABOUT 137 000 ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH ARE DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SECTORS, INCLUDING THE INDUSTRIAL AND THE SERVICES SECTORS, WITH FULL ENUMERATION OF ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR.

INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES ON JUNE 30, 1983, WILL BE ASKED OF EACH ESTABLISHMENT.

SOME 10 000 ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE SELECTED FROM THE SAMPLE AND ASKED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAYROLL IN EACH OF THE THREE MONTHS DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD OF APRIL - JUNE 1983.

ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE MAJOR KIND OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE NOW BEING MAILED TO INDIVIDUAL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER 1982 (LEGAL NOTICE NO. 69 OF 1982, GAZETTED ON MARCH 5, 82), ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVING QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY IN COMPLETING THE FORMS MAY CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AT THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBERS (PRINTED AT THE BACK OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES):-

5-436551

5-444301

5-455661

5-455668

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GDT MEMBERS URGED TO BE COURTEOUS

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THE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES, MR ERIC PEAKE, TOLD MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL DUTIES TEAMS TO BE COURTEOUS TO THE PUBLIC.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THEY ARE EMPLOYED TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THERE IS NO ROOM FOR +RUDENESS OR ARROGANCE+.

/ADDRESSING A

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ADDRESSING A GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR 329 GDT MEMBERS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR SIX-WEEK TRAINING COURSE, MR PEAKE SAID: +YOU HAVE BEEN TRAINED WELL TO DO YOUR JOB AND YOU WILL CONTINUE TO LEARN WITH EXPERIENCE.

+BUT YOUR CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY ARE YOURS AND YOURS ALONE, AND IT IS UP TO YOU TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE PUBLIC THAT THIS IS OF THE HIGHEST STANDARD.

+I BELIEVE THAT THE GENERAL EFFICIENCY AND STANDARD OF DISCIPLINE AND CONDUCT OF THE GDTS IS CONSTANTLY IMPROVING AND I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT WITH YOUR JOINING THE RANKS FURTHER PROGRESS WILL BE MADE.+

WHILE NOTING THAT SOME PEOPLE TEND TO THINK THAT THE WORK OF THE TEAMS IS TO ARREST HAWKERS AND DRIVE THEM OUT OF BUSINESS, MR PEAKE CONTENDED THAT THIS IS NOT TRUE.

HE STRESSED THAT THEIR WORK IS VARIED AND IS MAINLY INVOLVED IN RE-SITTING HAWKERS INTO MODERN MARKETS AND HAWKER BAZAARS, RE-ORDERING HAWKER SITES, REDUCING THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL HAWKERS, AND KEEPING THE STREETS, PAVEMENTS AND PUBLIC PLACES FREE FROM OBSTRUCTIONS.

+UNDOUBTEDLY THE WORK OF THE GDTS IS BOTH IMPORTANT AND MEANINGFUL TO THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

+THOUGH THEY ARE FREQUENTLY FACED WITH VARIOUS PROBLEMS, THEY DO A VERY GOOD JOB INDEED.+

MR PEAKE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT TO EXERCISE AN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER HAWKERS DEPENDS MUCH ON THE CO-OPERATION OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND THE SUPPORT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

+HOWEVER,+ HE ADDED, +THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR EFFECTIVE CONTROL FALLS CLEARLY ON THE GENERAL DUTIES TEAMS.+

OF THE 329 GRADUATES, 25 WERE OF THE RANK OF OVERSEERS, EIGHT SENIOR FOREMEN, 169 FOREMEN AND 127 WORKMEN CLASS I.

SINCE THE TRAINING PROGRAMME STARTED IN JULY 1979, MORE THAN 3 400 GDT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN TRAINED.

THE SIX-WEEK COURSE COVERS NOT ONLY THE LEARNING OF LEGISLATION AND DEPARTMENTAL PROCEDURES ON HAWKER CONTROL, BUT ALSO A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE.

ANTI-NARCOTICS BEACH CONCERT

THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS TOGETHER WITH THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, DISTRICT OFFICE (SOUTHERN) AND RADIO HONG KONG ARE JOINTLY ORGANISING A BEACH CONCERT TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY (JULY 3) AT REPULSE BAY.

/DETAILS OF

DETAILS OF THE FUNCTION WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 29) AT 3 PM IN THE LOBBY OF BROADCASTING HOUSE, RTHK, BROADCAST DRIVE, KOWLOON.

MR CHU PUI-HING, HEAD OF CHINESE RADIO PROGRAMME, RTHK WILL CHAIR THE CONFERENCE TOGETHER WITH MR HANDRICK NG, PRINCIPAL INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE NARCOTICS DIVISION, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT. ALSO ATTENDING WILL BE MISS STONEY POON, REPRESENTING DISTRICT OFFICE (SOUTHERN).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONFERENCE.

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SECOND CABO OPENED FOR ISLANDERS
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A NEW COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BRANCH OFFICE (CABO) WAS OPENED ON CHEUNG CHAU TODAY - THE SECOND SUCH OFFICE OF THE ISLAND DISTRICT TO SERVE THE LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THE FIRST CABO WAS SET UP ON MUI WO IN 1981.

SPEAKING AT TODAY'S OPENING CEREMONY, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP, SAID THE NEW OFFICE WAS A STEP AHEAD IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN THE ISLANDS DISTRICT.

HE SAID STAFF WORKING IN THE CABO WOULD MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE PROMOTION OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS, AS WELL AS ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

+THIS WILL ENABLE COMMUNITY SPIRIT TO PROSPER AND DEVELOP AS WELL AS FOR THE ISLANDERS TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS,+ HE SAID.

SITUATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF 22 SAN HING STREET, SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE NEW OFFICE WILL INCLUDE THE ADMINISTERING OF STATUTORY DECLARATIONS, THE DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT FORMS AND PAMPHLETS, HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS AND ANSWERING ENQUIRIES ABOUT GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

STAFF WILL ALSO HELP RESIDENTS SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS AND REFLECT THEIR VIEWS TO GOVERNMENT.

+I HOPE RESIDENTS WILL MAKE FULL USE OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED,+ SAID MR YAP.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S CEREMONY WERE FOUR UNOFFICIAL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENTING CHEUNG CHAU, MR YIU KAI-HANG, MR FUNG CHI-KANG, MR WONG WAI-KWAN AND MISS LEE WAI-FONG, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHEUNG CHAU RURAL COMMITTEE, MR KWONG PING-YAU.

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NEW HOUSING FOR 20 000 AT LAM TIN BY 1986

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A LARGE PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECT WILL BE BUILT ON THE SITE OF A MAJOR SQUATTER AREA IN LAM TIN TO PROVIDE MODERN HOMES FOR ABOUT 20 000 PEOPLE.

UPON FULL COMPLETION BY 1986, THE NEW PROJECT WILL CONTAIN THREE RENTAL AND THREE HOME OWNERSHIP BLOCKS PROVIDING 2 516 SELF-CONTAINED RENTAL AND 1 680 HOS FLATS.

SITE FORMATION IS ALREADY UNDERWAY ON PART OF THE SITE FOLLOWING THE CLEARANCE LAST YEAR OF SOME 1 800 SQUATTER STRUCTURES, MANY OF WHICH WERE DESTROYED IN PREVIOUS FIRES.

THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (DESIGNATE), MR DAVID FORD, TODAY INSPECTED WORK PROGRESS AT THE SITE WHERE HE WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON DETAILS OF THE PROJECT.

MR FORD LEARNED THAT OF THE REMAINING 2 000 SQUATTER STRUCTURES WHICH WOULD BE CLEARED IN PHASES OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, COMPREHENSIVE RECORDS IN REGARD TO LOCATION, SIZE AND USAGE WERE KEPT TO PREVENT POSSIBLE QUEUE-JUMPING IN FUTURE REHOUSING.

HE WAS GLAD TO NOTE THAT NEW SQUATTING ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA WERE COMPLETELY UNDER CONTROL AS A RESULT OF STEPPED-UP ACTION BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SQUATTER CONTROL STAFF.

LATER AT THE CHEUNG LUNG TIN VILLAGE SQUATTER AREA, THE DIRECTOR (DESIGNATE) INSPECTED THE PILOT SCHEME OF AMENITY-RELATED IMPROVEMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

THE RESIDENTS HE TALKED TO ALL HAILED THE SCHEME FOR BRINGING THEM IMPROVED ACCESS, PUBLIC LIGHTING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL METERED WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

FIRE-BREAKS WERE ALSO CREATED FOR THE SAFETY OF THE SQUATTERS IN CASE OF FIRES, AND MR FORD WAS PLEASED TO KNOW THAT SUCH IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE EXTENDED TO OTHER MAJOR SQUATTER AREAS.

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EXPORT CREDIT TO BE DISCUSSED

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A GROUP OF 30 INDUSTRIALISTS IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL TAKE PART IN A SEMINAR ON EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE ORGANISED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

GUEST SPEAKERS AT THE SEMINAR WILL BE MR CHOI SHIU-YING, THE CUSTOMER SERVICES MANAGER, AND MR KOO LEUNG CHEE, HEAD OF THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UNIT OF THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION.

/THEY WILL

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THEY WILL TALK ON THE OPERATION OF EXPORT CREDIT FACILITIES FOR HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS, AND PROTECTION PROVIDED BY THE CORPORATION AGAINST RISKS OF NON-PAYMENT FOR GOODS AND SERVICES EXPORTED ON CREDIT TERMS.

THE TALKS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A GROUP DISCUSSION AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS.

THE SEMINAR, TO BE CHAIRED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN IP, WILL BE HELD AT 11 AM AT THE GOOD WORLD RESTAURANT IN MEI FOO SUN CHUEN.

MR IP SAID THE SEMINAR WAS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE LIAISON BETWEEN THE BOARD AND DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY.

SIMILAR SEMINARS AND LECTURES ARE BEING PLANNED FOR OTHER SOCIAL GROUPS INCLUDING SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, STUDENTS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS LATER THIS YEAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 11 AM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT THE GOOD WORLD RESTAURANT, 85 BROADWAY STREET IN MEI FOO SUN CHUEN.

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SHAU KEI WAN MARRIAGE REGISTRY TO CLOSE

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THE SHAU KEI WAN MARRIAGE REGISTRY AT TAI KOO SHING WILL BE CLOSED FROM FRIDAY (JULY 1).

APPLICANTS WHO WISH TO MAKE USE OF THE NEARBY MARRIAGE FACILITIES MAY APPROACH THE CAUSEWAY BAY MARRIAGE REGISTRY, THE CITY HALL MARRIAGE REGISTRY OR THE COTTON TREE DRIVE MARRIAGE REGISTRY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO MAKE ENQUIRIES MAY TELEPHONE 3-7333111.

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SIX HOUSES AND SITE OFFERED FOR SALE
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SIX HOUSES AND A SITE IN NGAU CHI WAN VILLAGE WILL BE OFFERED BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT FOR SALE AT AN AUCTION IN THE CHOI WAN ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE, CHOI WAN ESTATE ON JULY 22 AT 2.30 PM.

EACH OF THE SIX HOUSES HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 56 SQUARE METRES AND IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE, (EXCLUDING GODOWN, CINEMA, REPAIR OR MAINTENANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES).

THE SITE TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE, MEASURING 74.3 SQUARE METRES, IS ALSO FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USES.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND SALE PLANS INSPECTED AT, THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG; DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE KOWLOON WEST, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, TSUEN WAN, TAI PO, NORTH, SAI KUNG AND ISLANDS.

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AMENITY PLOTS HELP BEAUTIFY SHA TIN
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TO BRIGHTEN UP THE HIGHWAY SCENE, THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY BUILT SEVEN MORE GREEN PLOTS OF UNIQUE DESIGN ALONGSIDE THE HIGHWAY AND PLACED FLORAL POTS AT THE LOOKOUT AREAS AT A SECTION OF TAI PO ROAD, BETWEEN TAI WAI AND KAM SHAN COUNTRY PARK.

AMONG THE PLOTS PROVIDED ALONG A STRETCH OF TAI PO ROAD, THREE MAJOR ONES ARE LOCATED AT KAN HAU, SHA TIN HILL ROAD AND AT AN OPEN SPACE OF THE 7-1/2 MILESTONE OF TAI PO ROAD. FOUR OTHER SMALLER AMENITY PLOTS ARE NEAR THE 6-1/2 MILESTONE OF TAI PO ROAD.

ATTRACTIVE FEATURES IN THESE GREEN PLOTS INCLUDE COLOURFUL GEOMETRIC FLOWER BEDS, STREAMLINED SHRUB BEDS, GRASS MOUNDS AND +ROCKERIES+ — DESIGNED TO ADD A TOUCH OF COLOUR TO THE HIGHWAY.

SOME OF THE AMENITY PLOTS ARE BUILT WITH CONCRETE PLANTERS AND RAISED BEDS WITH MASSIVE GROUP PLANTING OF FOLIAGE AND FLOWERING PLANTS.

THESE GREEN PLOTS ARE DESIGNED FOR THE MEI FA (BEAUTIFICATION) PHASE OF THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN AS WELL AS FOR IMPROVING THE GENERAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE RAPIDLY DEVELOPING SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

DRESSING UP THE HIGHWAYS WITH A SOFT TOUCH OF GREENERY ARE SOME 20 000 PLANTS, INCLUDING TREES, PALMS, CREEPERS, GROUND COVERS AND SEASONAL FLOWERS.

AS THE ACTUAL PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE WORK INVOLVES A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT, MOTORISTS AND HIKERS ARE URGED TO BE MORE CIVIC-MINDED AND TO HELP PROTECT THE PLANTS AS THEY FIND THEM.

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NEW FIRE STATION FOR LANTAU ISLAND
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A NEW SUB-DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION WILL BE BUILT IN TAI O, LANTAU ISLAND, TO KEEP UP WITH EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE ISLAND.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT.

THE FIRE STATION, COVERING ABOUT 2 080 SQUARE METRES, WILL BE SITUATED AT TAI O ROAD, NEAR LUNG TIN HOUSING ESTATE.

IT WILL HAVE AN APPLIANCE ROOM FOR FOUR FIRE ENGINES, OFFICES, SERVICE ROOMS, A RECREATION ROOM, BARRACKS, AN EXERCISE ROOM AND OTHER FACILITIES.

IN ADDITION, A DRILL YARD AND DRILL TOWER WILL BE PROVIDED.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START IN AUGUST AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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NT SWIMMING POOLS OPENING EARLIER
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STARTING FRIDAY (JULY 1), THE KWAI SHING AND SHA TIN PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS WILL OPEN HALF AN HOUR EARLIER EACH DAY - AT 6.30 AM - UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST.

THE OPENING HOURS ARE FROM 6.30 AM TO 9.15 AM, 9.45 AM TO 12 NOON, 1 PM TO 4 PM, 4.30 PM TO 6.45 PM, AND 7.45 PM TO 10 PM.

THIS ARRANGEMENT IS ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNGSTERS DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

MEANWHILE, THE OPENING TIMES OF THE FANLING AND YUEN LONG PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS REMAIN AT 7 AM DAILY.

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WATER FIGURES

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 90.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 521.159 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 326.098 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 56.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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FRESH WATER MAINS WORK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME AREAS IN KWUN TONG AND IN THE NORTH DISTRICT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVERAL HOURS BETWEEN THURSDAY (JUNE 30) AND FRIDAY FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

IN KWUN TONG, WATER SUPPLY TO AN AREA BOUNDED BY SAU MAU PING ROAD, HIU KWONG STREET, SAU MING ROAD AND SAU MAU PATH, INCLUDING BLOCKS 27 TO 31 SAU MAU PING ESTATE WILL BE INTERRUPTED FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

IN NORTH DISTRICT, WATER SUPPLY WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 PM ON THURSDAY TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT THOSE ON-ROUTE VILLAS, VILLAGES AND ALL PREMISES ALONG: TAI PO ROAD BETWEEN KOWLOON HANG TSUEN AND SHEUNG SHUI CROSS ROAD; CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN SHEUNG SHUI CROSS ROAD AND LOK MA CHAU, SAN TIN; FAN KAM ROAD BETWEEN SHEUNG SHUI CROSS ROAD AND TSIU KENG; JOCKEY CLUB ROAD BETWEEN FANLING ROUNDABOUT AND SAN FUNG AVENUE, INCLUDING SHEK WU HUI AND SHEUNG SHUI TSUEN; MAN KAM TO ROAD BETWEEN SAN FUNG AVENUE AND MAN KAM TO POLICE STATION, INCLUDING LO WU RAILWAY STATION AND MUK WU PUMPING STATION; SHA TAU KOK ROAD BETWEEN FANLING ROUNDABOUT AND SHA TAU KOK MARKET INCLUDING LUEN WO HUI AND ON LOK TSUEN; AND PING CHE ROAD BETWEEN HUNG LENG AND TA KWU LING POLICE STATION.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUPPLEMENT

Note to Editors: The following is embargoed until 10 pm today (Monday).

Monday, June 27, 1983

Present Day Realities - Speech by H.E. the Governor
at Stanford Research Institute Hong Kong Conference
on Monday, June 27, 1983

It is a great pleasure for me to be here this evening at this opening dinner of the Stanford Research Institute, Hong Kong - Shenzhen Session. I need not outline the essential facts about Hong Kong; you already have them in your report. Nor need I go into any detail about our economy generally or our position as a major financial centre. To do so would risk pre-empting the other distinguished and highly qualified speakers who will address you over the next few days. My aim will be, therefore, to set out for you quite briefly how the Hong Kong Government sees the situation in Hong Kong today and how I see its role in that situation. If I do not speak this evening on social and related issues it is not because we do not accord importance to them. We do. But as I understand it, your interests this evening are directed to economic and similar topics.

Let me begin with a few general comments. You will not have been here for five minutes without learning that the dominating issue in most people's minds today is the question of the future of this territory. That issue is the subject of talks which are taking place between representatives of the British and Chinese Governments in Peking. You may be assured that there is no issue to which the Governor and his Executive Council accord higher priority or to which they devote more time and effort; and the commitment of the British Government both to

Hong Kong and to the search for that settlement has recently been reaffirmed in a personal message from Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. I and the Unofficial Members of the Executive Council will be visiting London next week for further consultations with the British Government. We all remain determined to make a success of the talks.

The second point may be an obvious one but it is key to an understanding of Hong Kong. It is that this is one of the most open market economies in the world. Hong Kong's impressive economic growth has been based on a policy under which the Government has deliberately left the industrial, commercial and financial sectors free and unfettered to compete in domestic and world markets. The Government has sought to regulate only where the orderly conduct of business, fair treatment of the work force and the good name of Hong Kong so require. At the same time, we have sought to provide the infrastructure and the environment in which modern techniques and good industrial relations can flourish, and enterprise and hard work bring their rewards. In good times there is usually a chorus of endorsement of this approach. When times are harder, as they have been recently, there are some who are quick to call on the Government to intervene and to take measures to alleviate the lot of particular sections of the community. The mind of this Government is never closed to change, nor will it be; we live in a changing world and, where appropriate, we shall adjust to it. But we must not succumb to the deceptive temptation to seek short term alleviations of the difficulties of particular sectors without careful consideration of the side effects of those measures and of their longer term impact on the economy as a whole. We must have regard to the middle and longer term and to the interests of the community as a whole.

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My third general point is that this Government has shown its confidence in the future of Hong Kong in the most practical way - by continuing its own investment in a major public works programme and in far reaching plans for the future. If we seem cautious about some of our more ambitious projects, it is because we have chosen to slow down the growth rate of public expenditure. Given that currently we have for the first time for many years a large deficit on budgetary account, any other course would be irresponsible. But we have not allowed what we hope will be a short term situation to deflect us from our course.

Let me now describe our immediate situation as I see it and the plans in hand for the future.

The Hong Kong economy, in common with most other economies, has been adversely affected by the current world recession. Reflecting the basic resilience of the economy these effects did not emerge until 1982, when domestic exports fell in real terms for the first time since 1974 and the growth rate of the Gross Domestic Product in real terms was only 2.4%. This was a respectable rate of growth by world standards but far less than has been usual in Hong Kong. However, with world economic recovery hopefully underway, our policy of allowing the economy to make its own adjustments has again shown its worth. The Hong Kong economy has already begun to recover. Exports are picking up, particularly to the US, and the growth rate of the GDP for 1983 should show an improvement on last year. The actual extent of the improvement will depend, as it always has, on the growth rate of demand by the rest of the World for the goods and services that Hong Kong provides. At the moment, I am glad to say, the prospects look good for renewed growth.

Some sectors of our economy have suffered well-publicised problems. The most obvious is the property market. The surge in economic

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growth that Hong Kong enjoyed in the latter half of the 1970s generated a substantial increase in the demand for property of all kinds. Because the supply response to this increase in demand took time, the initial effect was to drive up the prices of both land and buildings. Supply then substantially exceeded demand and in 1981 prices dropped rapidly with further falls in 1982. This was caused by the normal operation of the market and commercial misjudgement, not by any Government actions. The Government has, in fact, done what it can to mitigate the effects on the economy as a whole. It has maintained its own building programmes. Otherwise the impact on the construction industry would have been much greater. Nor is the situation all gloom. Hong Kong now has an ample supply of good quality commercial, industrial and residential property available at reasonable prices to meet the needs of our business community and help to ease the problem of housing the people in homes of their choice. Moreover, despite the impression given by some commentators, a considerable amount of privately-financed construction expenditure is still being undertaken and, judging by future building plans, this will continue to be the case.

Adjustment problems in the property market have, in part, been responsible for the trouble faced by a small number of deposit-taking companies, but the banks and DTC's have generally done well in weathering these rougher seas. The resilience of the large majority of them is in no small way a credit to our much maligned system of supervision which has been extended and improved, particularly as regards DTC's, in recent years. I would note in passing that, even during this troubled period, a number of foreign banks have sought and obtained licences to carry on business in Hong Kong.

There have been casualties amongst the DTC's - although many fewer than some of the more vocal of the Government's critics would have

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one believe - and any failure which leaves members of the public deprived of their savings cannot be ignored. The Financial Secretary will shortly be bringing before Executive Council further amendments to the Banking and Deposit-taking Companies Ordinances to take account of experience gained in the recent troubles.

The foreign exchange market has also been going through a volatile period, partly due to domestic anxieties, including anxieties about the future of Hong Kong, and partly due to the sustained worldwide strength of the US dollar. As a result the Hong Kong dollar has fallen to a point far below that which the underlying strength of the economy would determine.

Let me make two things absolutely clear. First, the Government is concerned about the present level of the exchange rate, in particular its inflationary implications. Secondly, and I apologise for stating the obvious to internationally-minded members of this audience, but it is a point which some of the more insular local commentators often fail to understand, in a world of freely floating exchange rates, exchange rates are not determined by governments. This does not mean, of course, that governments cannot exert some influence. They can and do. But governments cannot hold the rate at a point which the market will not sustain particularly in an economy so open and internationally oriented as this one.

Despite recent difficulties, I believe the Hong Kong economy is beginning to recover and will enter a new growth phase. But for this to be sustained there must be an appropriate economic and social infrastructure. At present, Government is committed to an expenditure of \$25 billion on capital projects already approved to start (I shall be speaking throughout in Hong Kong dollar terms) and, despite short-term

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budgetary difficulties, these projects will go ahead. Even in the current difficult economic climate, the level of commitments for new works that will be entered into in 1983-84 is \$3 billion, roughly the same as the average level over the last four years.

The actual amount Government spent on capital works last year was \$6.5 billion - the highest ever. The main thrust of this considerable investment was in the New Towns and in Hong Kong's transport system. Expenditure on works so far this year has been somewhat dampened by the poor weather, but the year's total is still expected to exceed last year's by about \$1 billion, and this represents a further increase in real terms. These figures do not include the substantial expenditure on the public housing programme undertaken by the Housing Authority.

Rapid progress is being made on developing Hong Kong's communications networks, with high priority attached to the development of the MTR Island Line, the modernization of the Kowloon-Canton Railway and the upgrading of the road network. The electrification of the Kowloon-Canton Railway is almost complete. Nearly \$400 million will be spent this year on Stages I and II of the Hong Kong Island Eastern Corridor road, \$200 million on the Tsuen Wan Bypass and its associated reclamation works, and \$270 million on a trunk road from Sha Tin to Tai Po.

Responding to Hong Kong's international communications needs, detailed planning is in hand to ensure that the airport at Kai Tak will have the capacity to meet the growth in passenger traffic forecast for at least the rest of this decade. This has had to take precedence over longer-term plans for the development of a new airport on Lantau Island - an undertaking so vast that it would have interfered over a number of years with the fulfillment of Hong Kong's more basic needs such as public

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housing. For the present, therefore, it cannot be contemplated.

As you must be aware, housing absorbs a large slice of the Government's budget. Since the public housing programme was launched in 1954, a total of 136 estates have been built providing accommodation at well below market prices for nearly half a million families. Over 2.3 million people, or 43% of the population, now live in housing provided or subsidised by the Government. Currently, some 124,000 flats are under construction and many further estates are at the design or planning stage.

As important as the physical infrastructure, is the development of our human resources. Over the last ten years we have systematically reviewed each sector of education in Hong Kong. As a further step in this process, the Government brought together an international team of distinguished educators who conducted an overall review of education in Hong Kong. Their report, which recommends initiatives and changes in many fields, has now been circulated for discussion and comment among our whole community. Personally I believe the question of education to be of the highest importance for the future of Hong Kong. We shall not maintain our place in this competitive world without a well educated working population possessing appropriate professional and industrial and technical skills; and we must maintain the great advantage which Hong Kong enjoys of bilingualism in English and Chinese.

In Hong Kong, it is not only the public sector that provides the infrastructure necessary to cater for economic growth and for the rising standards of living for our growing population. We also depend on the willingness of the private sector to continue to invest in the generation of power, in the expansion of our container port, and similar facilities. I am happy to say that, despite the recent slowdown in Hong

Kong's economic growth and the pessimistic forecasts about our future that some observers have seen fit to make, there is clear evidence that private firms are still willing to invest in Hong Kong's future.

We are also facing important decisions on the direction of long term urban development. Our existing new towns will be fully developed by the end of the present decade. During the last two years comprehensive studies on the next major development options have been undertaken and should be completed by the end of the year. Decisions will have to be taken thereafter which will determine the pattern of development for the decade from 1991 to 2001. We are dealing here not just with the location of a housing estate or two. The problem is to determine the locations for homes, offices, schools and factories for more than a million people and to build the necessary transport network. Our plans are ambitious and we shall pursue them to the full extent that our resources permit.

I hope I have said enough to convince you that you have not come to a city which has stalled. We have our difficulties and recognise clearly the problem of confidence. But we remain committed to our traditional approach, which has served Hong Kong so well, of allowing market forces to operate. Our economy can adjust and there are encouraging signs that it is already doing so. Where, without excessive intervention, the Government can mitigate the harshness of that adjustment it does so. There are many firms in the private sector in Hong Kong showing their faith in the future of Hong Kong in the most practical of ways - by continued investment and expansion of their operations here. The Government for its part will continue to invest in both the development of Hong Kong's human resources and the territory's infrastructure. In short, we know where we want to go, and we shall not be deflected by rough weather, from doing our utmost to get there.