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ARTS FESTIVAL FIRMLY ESTABLISHED - GOVERNOR

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THE HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL HAD FIRMLY ESTABLISHED ITSELF IN THE WORLD AND HAD CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE CULTURAL LIFE OF HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID THIS EVENING.

IT HAD ALSO BEEN A STIMULUS TO THE +REMARKABLE FLOWERING OF ARTISTIC TALENT WHICH HAD BEEN SO EVIDENT OVER THE PAST DECADE+ IN HONG KONG, HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE CELEBRATION DINNER FOR THIS YEAR'S ARTS FESTIVAL, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT IT WAS +NO SMALL ACHIEVEMENT+ FOR THE ARTS FESTIVAL TO BE MOVING INTO ITS FIFTEENTH YEAR.

THE FESTIVAL SUCCEEDED BECAUSE IT HAD WIDE COMMUNITY SUPPORT, THE GOVERNOR SAID, THANKING IN PARTICULAR THE FESTIVAL CHAIRMAN, SIR RUN RUN SHAW FOR ALL THAT HE HAD DONE FOR THE HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL.

+WITHOUT HIS DEDICATED LEADERSHIP, THE ARTS FESTIVAL WOULD NEVER HAVE ACHIEVED ITS PRESENT STATUS IN SO SHORT A TIME. ALL OF US IN HONG KONG ARE GRATEFUL TO HIM,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

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HECTIC YEAR AHEAD FOR HK'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE

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THE YEAR 1986 WILL BE A HECTIC ONE FOR HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES AND GARMENTS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR STEUART WEBB-JOHNSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL SPRING DINNER OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG GARMENT MANUFACTURERS, MR WEBB-JOHNSON SAID THE MAIN CONCERN FOR HONG KONG IN 1986 WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE PROBLEM OF PROTECTIONISM IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS.

+SUCH DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED STATES, POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO HONG KONG'S TRADING PROSPECTS, PARTICULARLY ON THE TEXTILE FRONT.

+MORE SPECIFICALLY, PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENTS COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ARISING FROM THE EXPIRY OF THE CURRENT MULTIFIBRE ARRANGEMENT AT THE END OF JULY.+

MR WEBB-JOHNSON SAID ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD - BOTH IN DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES - WERE STILL CONSIDERING THE POSITION THEY WOULD TAKE IN REGARD TO THE FUTURE OF THE MFA, THERE WERE CLEAR SIGNS THAT THE U.S., HONG KONG'S BIGGEST MARKET FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, WOULD ADOPT A HARDLINE POSITION TO THE DETRIMENT OF MAJOR TEXTILE AND GARMENT SUPPLIERS LIKE HONG KONG.

/ON HONG .....

ON HONG KONG'S BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENTS WITH VARIOUS COUNTRIES, MR WEBB-JOHNSON SAID THE ONE WITH THE EEC WOULD EXPIRE AT THE END OF THE YEAR AND HONG KONG WOULD BE NEGOTIATING WITH THE EEC SHORTLY IN THIS REGARD.

+ALSO, AT THE REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, WE SHALL SHORTLY BE MEETING WITH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING HONG KONG'S TEXTILE EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES.+

INTERNALLY, MR WEBB-JOHNSON SAID 1986 SAW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED QUOTA TRANSFER RULES WHICH WERE DESIGNED TO HELP MOVE QUOTAS FROM SPECULATORS TO GENUINE USERS.

HE NOTED THAT CONCERN HAD BEEN EXPRESSED IN SOME QUARTERS THAT SINCE THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IN JANUARY, THE NEW RULES WERE MAKING QUOTAS SCARCE AND WERE HURTING SMALL COMPANIES WHICH WERE FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN QUOTAS THROUGH TRANSFERS.

MR WEBB-JOHNSON SAID IT WAS STILL FAR TOO EARLY TO COME TO ANY CONCLUSION ON THE NEW RULES.

+THE REVISED RULES HAD BEEN DRAWN UP IN CONSULTATION WITH THE TRADE AFTER MONTHS OF CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND DETAIL DISCUSSIONS, AND IT WOULD NOT BE FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED IF WE DO NOT ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME FOR THE NEW SYSTEM TO PROVE ITSELF. IN THE MEANTIME, THE GOVERNMENT IS CLOSELY MONITORING THE SITUATION,+ HE ADDED.

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1985 EXPORTS STATISTICS BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN RELEASED

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THE SIX MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRY GROUPS IN TERMS OF THE VALUE OF 1985 DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE WEARING APPAREL, ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, TEXTILES, PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT, PLASTIC PRODUCTS, AND BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS.

TOGETHER THEY ACCOUNTED FOR 84 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE EXPORTS.

THE INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST INCREASES IN ABSOLUTE VALUE OVER 1984 WERE NON-ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (+$1 026 MILLION), PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT (+$436 MILLION), TOBACCO (+$384 MILLION), PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS, PRINTING AND PUBLISHING (+$212 MILLION), FOOTWEAR (+$147 MILLION), AND ELECTRICITY (+$131 MILLION).

/IN RELATIVE .....

IN RELATIVE TERMS, INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE INCREASES OVER 1984 WERE TOBACCO (+74 PER CENT), BEVERAGES (+57 PER CENT), NON-ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (+53 PER CENT), ELECTRICITY (+42 PER CENT), AND FOOTWEAR (+28 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OVER 1984 WERE RECORDED FOR ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS (-$5 664 MILLION OR -17 PER CENT), WEARING APPAREL (-$1 695 MILLION OR -5 PER CENT), PLASTIC PRODUCTS (-$1 482 MILLION OR -13 PER CENT), TEXTILES (-$1 343 MILLION OR -5 PER CENT), BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS (-$659 MILLION OR -10 PER CENT), AND NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS (-92 MILLION OR -16 PER CENT).

SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE DECREASES WERE ALSO OBSERVED IN AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION (-50 PER CENT), MINING AND QUARRYING (-25 PER CENT) AND RUBBER PRODUCTS (-17 PER CENT).

THESE ARE SOME OF THE STATISTICS RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS ANALYSED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN FOR 1985.

THIS SERIES IS DERIVED BY REGROUPING ALL SIX-DIGIT MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS UNDER THE PRESENT EXTERNAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM ACCORDING TO THE INDUSTRIES IN WHICH THESE MERCHANDISE ITEMS ARE NORMALLY PRODUCED. TRANSACTIONS IN GOLD AND SPECIE ARE EXCLUDED.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN IS STRUCTURED UPON THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (I.S.I.C.), AS DISTINCT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (S.I.T.C.) WHICH IS ADOPTED IN THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

WHEN REFERRING TO THESE RE-CLASSIFIED FIGURES, A POINT OF CAUTION IS RELEVANT. CERTAIN MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS MAY REQUIRE SEVERAL INTERMEDIATE PROCESSING STAGES FOR THEIR PRODUCTION.

IN SUCH CASES, THE INDUSTRY IN WHICH AN ITEM IS FINALLY PRODUCED IS NOT REALLY THE SOLE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE VALUE. NEVERTHELESS, STATISTICALLY, THE OVERALL VALUE OF THE ITEM IS WHOLLY ALLOCATED TO THAT INDUSTRY.

BESIDES, THE CLASSIFICATION OF A MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEM TO A PARTICULAR INDUSTRY DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE ENTIRE VALUE OF THE ITEM IS ACTUALLY PRODUCED BY ESTABLISHMENTS OF THAT INDUSTRY, SINCE SOME MAY BE SECONDARY PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY ESTABLISHMENTS CLASSIFIED UNDER OTHER INDUSTRIES.

/FURTHER DETAILS .....

FURTHER DETAILS OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS STATISTICS FOR MERCHANDISE RECLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN MAY BE SEEN IN THE TABLE BELOW WHICH IS OBTAINABLE FROM THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. 3-7224504). A TABLE ON THESE STATISTICS FOR SELECTED INDUSTRIES IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE REPORT +HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE, DECEMBER 1985+.

VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR MERCHANDISE, RECLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN FOR 1984 AND 1985

(VALUES IN HK$ MILLION)

INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN OF THE COMMODITIES EXPORTED	MERCHANDISE DOMESTIC EXPORTS 1984	1985	VALUE CHANGE	% CHANGE
AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY AND FISHING				
AGRICULTURAL, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION	12	6	-6	- 50
FORESTRY AND LOGGING	0.007	-	-0.007	-100
OCEAN AND COASTAL FISHING	241	243	2	1
MINING AND QUARRYING	4	3	-1	- 25
MANUFACTURING				
FOOD	1 219	1 189	-30	- 2
BEVERAGES	137	215	78	57
TOBACCO	522	907	384	74
TEXTILES (INCLUDING KNITTING)	25 281	23 938	-1 343	- 5
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR AND KNITWEAR	31 663	29 968	-1 695	- 5
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS	488	468	-20	- 4
FOOTWEAR	522	669	147	28

/WOOD AND .....

WOOD AND CORK PRODUCTS, FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	779	752	-28	- 4
PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS, PRINTING AND PUBLISHING	2 144	2 356	212	10
CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	1 433	1 350	-83	- 6
RUBBER PRODUCTS	200	166	-34	- 17
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	11 819	10 337	-1 482	- 13
NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS	565	474	-92	- 16
BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	6 577	5 918	-659	- 10
MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL	1 932	2 958	1 026	53
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	33 421	27 757	-5 664	- 17
TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	149	146	-3	- 2
PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT	10 571	11 008	436	4
OTHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	7 881	8 558	678	9
ELECTRICITY	312	443	131	42
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS				
(E.G. DEVELOPED PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATES AND FILM, ANTIQUES, AND WORKS OF ART)	64	54	-10	- 16
TOTAL	137 936	129 882	-8 055	- 6

INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES OF A COLUMN MAY NOT ADD UP EXACTLY TO THE CORRESPONDING TOTAL DUE TO ROUNDING.

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CHARITIES GET $9M FROM HO TUNG FUND

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GRANTS OF MORE THAN $9 MILLION WERE MADE RECENTLY FROM THE SIR ROBERT HO TUNG CHARITABLE FUND TO 80 CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS IN HONG KONG.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY BY MR NIGEL SHIPMAN, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVISING THE GOVERNOR ON THE ALLOCATION OF THE FUNDS.

THE SIR ROBERT HO TUNG CHARITABLE FUND IS ONE OF THE LARGEST CHARITABLE TRUSTS IN HONG KONG. IT WAS ESTABLISHED BY A BEQUEST OF $500 000 BY THE LATE SIR ROBERT HO TUNG IN 1956, AND IS ADMINISTERED BY HONGKONG BANK TRUSTEE LTD.

MR SHIPMAN SAID THAT MAJOR GRANTS THIS YEAR INCLUDED $1 263 080 TO THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS.

THE HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS, CHEST AND HEART DISEASES ASSOCIATION RECEIVED $687 880, FOR USE BY THE RUTTONJEE SANATORIUM FOR PURCHASE OF HOSPITAL BEDS, AND BY THE GRANTHAM HOSPITAL FOR PURCHASE OF AN X-RAY UNIT.

THE UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL RECEIVED $527 000, AND THE PO LEUNG KUK WAS GIVEN $436 000.

A SUM OF $395 550 WAS GIVEN TO PROVIDE MILK FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN 58 SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND TO ALLOW THEM TO GO ON OUTINGS AND EDUCATIONAL VISITS. ANOTHER $316 200 WAS TO SUBSIDISE THE HANDICAPPED AND UNDERPRIVILEGED SCHOOL CHILDREN TO ATTEND OUTDOOR EDUCATIONAL CAMPS.

CARITAS, HONG KONG, WAS GIVEN $390 600, LARGELY FOR PURCHASE OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE AND FOR ITS CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY, KINDERGARTENS AND CLINICS.

A GRANT OF $337 000 WAS GIVEN TO THE SAMARITAN FUND FOR PURCHASE OF WHEELCHAIRS AND MEDICAL DRESSINGS AND CONSUMABLES.

THE HEEP HONG SOCIETY FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN WAS GRANTED $300 000 FOR THE REPROVISIONING OF ITS PAK TIN FIRST HELP UNIT, AND THE NAM LONG HOSPITAL WAS GRANTED $298 000 FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON ITS FRESH WATER AND FLUSH WATER SUPPLIES.

OTHER GRANTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

* $281 840 TO THE HONG KONG RED CROSS;

* $245 300 TO THE SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL FOR A TRAINING ROOM FOR OBSERVATION AND TREATMENT OF PUPILS WITH BEHAVIOURAL AND SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS;

/* $225 000 TO .....

* $225 000 TO THE MA WAN RURAL COMMITTEE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO-STOREY OLD PEOPLE'S CENTRE;

* $202 320 TO HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE MAINLY FOR ITS +INFANT STIMULATION AND PARENT EFFECTIVENESS TRAINING PROJECT+;

* $200 400 TO THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL, AND $158 030 TO THE POK OI HOSPITAL FOR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT;

* $200 000 TO ST. CHRISTOPHER'S HOME FOR FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT FOR CHILDREN'S COTTAGES;

* $196 900 TO OUR LADY OF MARYKNOLL HOSPITAL FOR AN OPERATING TABLE AND AN AUTOMATIC CELL WASHER;

* $196 400 TO THE SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF DISABLED CHILDREN FOR REPLACEMENT OF AN AUTOCLAVE AND THE AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM AT THE DUCHESS OF KENT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL;

* $182 880 TO SIK SIK YUEN TO FIT OUT A SOCIAL CLUB FOR THE ELDERLY IN CHAK ON ESTATE;

* $180 000 TO THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF WOMEN FOR RUNNING ITS REFUGE FOR ABUSED WOMEN, AND

* $150 000 TO THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG.

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MEDIA SUPPORT MOUNTS FOR MARCH 6 ELECTIONS

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IN SUPPORT OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 6, POPULAR TELEVISION PERSONALITIES AND RADIO DISC-JOCKEYS WILL PARTICIPATE IN DISTRIBUTING HANDBILLS AND DELIVERING ELECTION MESSAGES TO THE PUBLIC IN THE URBAN AND NON-URBAN AREAS DURING THE NEXT TWO DAYS.

THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR PETER TSAO, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE LAUNCHING OF A BUS TOUR SPONSORED BY THE ASIA TELEVISION LIMITED IN EDINBURGH PLACE AT 12.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

/+MISS ASIA .....

+MISS ASIA PACIFIC (HK)+, EVA LAI, AND +MISS PEACE+, JACLYN CHU, WILL JOIN THE 12 SEMI-FINALISTS OF THE +HONG KONG NEW IDOL CHALLENGE 1986+ TO URGE REGISTERED ELECTORS TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY (MARCH 6) WHILE TOURING THROUGHOUT CENTRAL AND CAUSEWAY BAY.

PROMOTION EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 5) WHEN THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES, MR GRAHAM BARNES, WILL OFFICIATE AT BOTH AN URBAN AND A NON-URBAN AREA EVENT TO GIVE RADIO ARTISTES AND DISC-JOCKEYS SUPPORT FOR THEIR ELECTION PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES.

MR BARNES WILL FIRST ATTEND A PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT THE TAI PO HONGKONG RAILWAY MUSEUM AT 11.25 AM BEFORE RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG DISC-JOCKEYS SET OUT TO DISTRIBUTE HANDBILLS TO RESIDENTS IN TAI PO AND SHA TIN, CALLING ON REGISTERED ELECTORS TO SUPPORT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTION.

MR BARNES WILL THEN ATTEND A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY AT THE SHARP STREET TRAM DEPOT IN WAN CHAI AT 12.30 PM TO LAUNCH A SPECIAL ANTIQUE TRAM TOUR SPONSORED BY HONG KONG COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING CO. LTD.

OFFICE WORKERS AND RESIDENTS OF WAN CHAI, CENTRAL AND WESTERN, AND NORTH POINT DISTRICTS WILL BE ABLE TO SEE COMMERCIAL RADIO DISC-JOCKEYS AND OTHER PERSONALITIES RIDING ON THE COLOURFULLY DECORATED TRAM DURING THE LUNCH TIME PERIOD.

THE JOURNEY, WHICH WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE AT CERTAIN INTERVALS, IS TO ENCOURAGE REGISTERED ELECTORS TO VOTE ON THURSDAY (MARCH 6).

HELIUM-INFLATED BLIMPS CARRYING ELECTION BANNERS WILL BE FLOWN OVER THE URBAN COUNCIL CENTENARY GARDENS IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST AND THE YUEN WO PLAYGROUND ALONG THE SHING MUN RIVER IN SHA TIN TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AND IN STATUE SQUARE, CENTRAL, ON WEDNESDAY TO HELP IN THE PUBLICITY.

BROADCASTING VANS WILL BE TOURING VARIOUS DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY TO DISSEMINATE ELECTION MESSAGES.

THE REMAINING +COUNTDOWN+ API'S (ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST) WILL BE SCREENED AND BROADCAST ON TELEVISION AND RADIO IN THE DAYS LEADING TO MARCH 6.

AS A FURTHER REMINDER TO REGISTERED ELECTORS, DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS WILL APPEAR IN MAJOR ENGLISH AND CHINESE NEWSPAPERS ON MARCH 5 AND 6.

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PUBLICITY CONTINUES ON UC ELECTIONS

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KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GORDON JONES, AND HIS STAFF WILL CONTINUE THEIR PUBLICITY EFFORTS ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 5) AND THURSDAY TO APPEAL TO ELIGIBLE ELECTORS TO CAST THEIR VOTES IN THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 6.

ON WEDNESDAY, AN OPEN-TOP PUBLICITY BUS FEATURING A LION DANCE WILL TOUR MAJOR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, BUSY STREETS, MARKET PLACES, COMMERCIAL AND SHOPPING CENTRES AND PROMINENT AREAS.

MR JONES WILL PERFORM THE EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY OUTSIDE THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE BEFORE THE PUBLICITY BUS STARTS THE TOUR.

ON ELECTION DAY (MARCH 6), A STREET PERFORMANCE +GO TIM TIM ON STILTS+ BY THE FRINGE CLUB WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 1.30 PM AND 2.30 PM OUTSIDE THE OI MAN ESTATE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX.

MESSAGES AND MUSIC URGING REGISTERED ELECTORS TO VOTE WILL BE BROADCAST BY THE PUBLICITY BUS AND TWO OTHER VEHICLES WHILE PUBLICITY MATERIALS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PASSERS-BY THROUGHOUT THE JOURNEYS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE LION DANCE EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY AT 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY OUTSIDE THE KOWLOON CITY OFFICE, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON ELECTIONS

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A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE FORTHCOMING URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 6, WILL BE HELD AT 3.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO.

IT WILL BE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS, 12TH FLOOR, WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, 7 CANTON ROAD, HARBOUR CITY, TSIM SHA TSUI.

ALSO PRESENT WILL BE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (ELECTORAL SERVICES), MR LEE LAP-SUN, AND A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR C.M. LEUNG.

/THE CHIEF .....

THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE NEWS AND PUBLICITY DIVISION OF CNTA, MRS BETTY SHUM, WILL BRIEF THE MEDIA ABOUT PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COVERAGE OF VIP VOTING AND VISITS ON ELECTION DAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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ELECTION BUS

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THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR PETER TSAO, WILL OFFICIALLY LAUNCH A SPECIAL ELECTION BUS IN EDINBURGH PLACE AT 12.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO PROMOTE THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

SPONSORED BY ASIA TELEVISION LIMITED, THE OPEN-TOP BUS WILL TOUR THE CENTRAL AND CAUSEWAY BAY DISTRICTS DURING LUNCH TIME, CALLING ON REGISTERED ELECTORS TO VOTE ON MARCH 6.

+MISS ASIA PACIFIC (HK)+, EVA LAI AND +MISS PEACE+, JACLYN CHU, WILL JOIN THE 12 SEMI-FINALISTS OF THE +HONG KONG NEW IDOL CHALLENGE 1986+ IN DELIVERING THE ELECTION MESSAGE TO PASSERS-BY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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EPA GETS NEW COMPUTERISED CHEMICAL DATABANK

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, IN ITS CONTINUING FIGHT AGAINST POLLUTION, HAS JUST ACQUIRED A COMPUTERISED CHEMICAL DATABANK - KNOWN AS CHEMDATA - WHICH CAN PROVIDE RAPID ACCESS TO CHEMICAL PRODUCT INFORMATION.

CHEMDATA, DEVELOPED BY HARWELL LABORATORY IN BRITAIN, IS A COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS.

IT CURRENTLY CONTAINS INFORMATION ON OVER 43 000 CHEMICALS, STORED IN A MICROCOMPUTER, AND IS UPDATED EVERY SIX MONTHS.

/INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES .....

INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES IN THE DATABASE CAN BE INSTANTLY ACCESSIBLE BY CHEMICAL NAMES OR TRADE NAMES, AND EVEN SEARCHES FOR INCOMPLETE NAMES AND COMMON NAMES ARE POSSIBLE.

THE LISTING FOR EACH CHEMICAL INCLUDES ITS HAZARDOUS PROPERTIES, PERSONAL PROTECTION AND HANDLING PRECAUTIONS, FIRE CONTROL AND DECONTAMINATION METHODS.

THE CHEMDATA SYSTEM IS BEING USED BY THE EPA AS A SCREENING TOOL TO PROVIDE BASIC INFORMATION IN FORMULATING ADVICE ON THE DISPOSAL OF INDUSTRIAL WASTES.

SEARCHES FOR ANY SPECIAL INFORMATION CAN BE CARRIED OUT IN LESS THAN 15 SECONDS AND HARD COPY CAN BE READILY OBTAINED.

CONSEQUENTLY, QUICK RESPONSE TO ANY REQUEST FOR ADVICE FROM EMERGENCY SERVICES CAN BE PROVIDED IN THE EVENT OF AN INCIDENT WHERE HAZARDOUS WASTES ARE INVOLVED OR WHERE A CHEMICAL HAZARD MAY EXIST.

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ROLE OF PRIVATE NURSERIES LAUDED

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PRIVATE CHILD CARE CENTRES PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HONG KONG AND THERE ARE AT PRESENT 84 SUCH CENTRES MAINLY ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN WEST KOWLOON, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE JINGLE BELL NURSERY IN SHA TIN, MRS CHAN SAID THAT THE 84 PRIVATE CENTRES COMPRISED 28 FULL-DAY CENTRES, 16 HALF-DAY CENTRES AND 24 PLAY GROUPS CATERING FOR 8 544 CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF TWO AND SIX.

IN ADDITION THERE WERE 16 NURSERIES CARING FOR OVER 600 CHILDREN UP TO THE AGE OF SIX.

+ALTOGETHER THESE PRIVATE CHILD CARE CENTRES PROVIDE 9 178 PLACES, OR ONE-THIRD OF ALL SUCH PLACES IN HONG KONG, AND CLEARLY PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS FIELD,+ MRS CHAN SAID.

AT PRESENT THERE ARE 255 AIDED, NON-PROFIT-MAKING AND PRIVATE CHILD CARE CENTRES IN HONG KONG, PROVIDING SOME 26 500 PLACES.

ACCORDING TO EXISTING POLICY, ONE AIDED CHILD CARE CENTRE WITH A CAPACITY OF 100 PLACES WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR EVERY 20 000 PEOPLE.

+THE GOVERNMENT ALSO ENCOURAGES THE SETTING UP OF PRIVATE CHILD CARE CENTRES IN DENSELY POPULATED AREAS TO MAKE UP FOR SHORTFALLS IN SUCH PLACES.

/+THERE IS .....

+THERE IS LIKELY TO BE 15 NEW CHILD CARE CENTRES EACH YEAR WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 1 500 PLACES,+ MRS CHAN SAID.

THE CHILD CARE CENTRE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS AT PRESENT PROCESSING APPLICATIONS OF FOUR PRIVATE CHILD CARE CENTRES WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO COME INTO OPERATION NEXT YEAR.

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ADMISSION OPEN TO PRIMARY 2-6 IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

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APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO PRIMARY 2 TO PRIMARY 6 IN GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR THE 1986-87 SCHOOL YEAR IS NOW OPEN.

CHILDREN AGED SIX YEARS AND EIGHT MONTHS AND ABOVE ON SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR MAY APPLY FOR THE APPROPRIATE PRIMARY 2 TO PRIMARY 6 CLASSES, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

PARENTS SHOULD MAKE DIRECT ENQUIRIES WITH INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS TO FIND OUT ABOUT VACANCIES AT ANY LEVEL.

SUCH VACANCIES WILL ALSO BE CLEARLY INDICATED IN A NOTICE PUT UP AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITH VACANCIES FROM FRIDAY (MARCH 7) TO MARCH 14 EXCLUDING GENERAL HOLIDAYS.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS. SELECTION OF PRIMARY 2 TO 6 PUPILS WILL BE MADE ON MARCH 21.

CHILDREN WILL NORMALLY BE ADMITTED TO SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT THEY RESIDE AND CARE WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN FROM THE SAME FAMILY ARE NOT SEPARATED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN THIS CONNECTION, PARENTS OR GUARDIANS ARE REQUESTED TO CO-OPERATE BY PROVIDING ALL PARTICULARS IN THE APPLICATION FORM.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE FREE AND NO ENTRANCE FEE IS CHARGED FOR ADMISSION TO ANY GOVERNMENT SCHOOL.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED PARENTS AND GUARDIANS THAT CHILDREN BETWEEN SIX AND 12 YEARS OLD NOT IN SCHOOL SHOULD APPLY FOR ADMISSION.

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FIRST DB TO DISCUSS BILLIARD SALOON ISSUE

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WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) A PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A SUPPLEMENTARY SITE FOR THE EXTENDED REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND THE CONTROL OF BILLIARD SALOONS.

SIX HOUSING BLOCKS IN WONG TAI SIN ARE AFFECTED IN THE EXTENDED REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME. THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT PROPOSAL WILL PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AREA IN CHUK YUEN ESTATE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.

HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR PLANNING OFFICER, MISS MARY SEDDON, AND SENIOR ARCHITECT, MR ANDREW SIU, WILL BE PRESENT TO BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE PROPOSAL.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE CONTROL OF PUBLIC BILLIARD SALOONS AND PRIVATE BILLIARD CLUBS. THE WONG TAI SIN DB WILL BE THE FIRST DISTRICT BOARD TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (HEADQUARTERS) OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR PATRICK HASE, WILL BE PRESENT TO LISTEN TO MEMBERS' VIEWS.

ALSO PRESENT WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (POLLUTION) OF THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH, MR IAN HOWARD, AND SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WASTE MANAGEMENT), MR ROBERT JORDAN. THEY WILL BRIEF MEMBERS AND SEEK THEIR VIEWS ON THE CONTROL OF POLLUTION CAUSED BY ANIMAL WASTE.

IN THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PRIVATE CAR INSPECTION SCHEME.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE URBAN COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 1985-86 TO 1989-90; A REPORT ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF THE GREEN PAPER ON HOUSING SUBSIDY TO TENANTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING, AN INFORMATION PAPER ON ROAD OPENINGS, A FINANCIAL REVIEW OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS, AND THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT FESTIVAL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW AT 2.30 PM AT THE FUNG MING HALL, WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE.

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SHENZHEN RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROPOSED

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TWO SECTIONS OF THE SHENZHEN RIVER NEAR LOK MA CHAU AND LIU POK ARE TO BE IMPROVED TO PREVENT FLOODINGS.

THE SCHEME INVOLVES REALIGNING, WIDENING AND DEEPENING THE RIVER.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS IS A JOINT HONG KONG-SHENZHEN PROJECT WHICH WAS AGREED UPON AND SIGNED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND AUTHORITIES IN SHENZHEN IN APRIL 1982.

THE EXTENT OF AREA AFFECTED -- ABOUT 33 HECTARES OF THE RIVER -- IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON FRIDAY, HE SAID.

THOSE AFFECTED BY THE PLAN COULD SUBMIT WRITTEN CLAIMS TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS WITHIN ONE YEAR.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES TO BE CLEARED

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A TOTAL OF 18 ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE CLEARED AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) MORNING.

THE OPERATION IS BEING CO-ORDINATED BY THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, HOUSING DEPARTMENT, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE CLEARANCE SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT 9.15 AM AT THE JUNCTION OF KANSU STREET AND FERRY STREET.

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KWAI CHUNG WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 PM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 6) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE ON KWAI HEI STREET FROM UNDER BRIDGE OF TSUEN WAN BYPASS TO WING SHUN STREET, INCLUDING WING KEI ROAD, WING CHONG STREET, WING LAP STREET AND WING HAU STREET.

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DETAILS ON TRADE REPORT

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THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE TRADE FACILITATION COUNCIL, CHAIRED BY MR DENIS CHANG, WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO GIVE DETAILS OF ITS RECENTLY-COMPLETED REPORT ON THE ELECTRONIC TRANSFER OF DATA IN RELATION TO THE TRADE DOCUMENTATION PROCESS IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL, AT 5 PM TODAY (MONDAY).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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KWUN TONG, YUEN LONG ROAD CLOSURE

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A SECTION OF THE UNNAMED ROAD LINKING SAU MAU PING ROAD AND PO LAM ROAD IN KWUN TONG, FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH SAU MAU PING ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 90 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 6) TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION IN SAU MAU PING ROAD.

VEHICLES ON SAU MAU PING ROAD HEADING FOR THE UNNAMED ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED TO PO LAM ROAD.

MEANWHILE, FROM 7 AM TO 11 PM ON THE SAME DAY, ON SHUN STREET IN YUEN LONG WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTION TO BE HELD AT THE YUEN LONG LUTHERAN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 59.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 346.378 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 395.367 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 67.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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