



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1989

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POLICY ON IMPORTATION OF SKILLED LABOUR
TO BE APPLIED MORE FLEXIBLY

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT THE CURRENT POLICY ON IMPORTATION OF SKILLED LABOUR SHOULD BE APPLIED MORE FLEXIBLY TO MEET CHANGING NEEDS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT UNDER THE PRESENT POLICY, A PERSON IS ALLOWED TO ENTER HONG KONG FOR EMPLOYMENT PROVIDED THAT THERE IS NO SECURITY RISK, THAT HE IS UNLIKELY TO BECOME A BURDEN ON HONG KONG, THAT HE POSSESSES A SPECIAL SKILL, KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERIENCE OF VALUE TO AND NOT READILY AVAILABLE HERE, OR THAT HE IS IN A POSITION TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY.

"THIS POLICY HAS SERVED US WELL BUT THE CONTINUING HIGH LEVEL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THE PAST FEW YEARS HAS LED TO A SHORTAGE OF CERTAIN SKILLS AND PROFESSIONS IN SOME SECTORS.

"WE ARE EXAMINING THE AREAS WHICH HAVE ACUTE SKILLED MANPOWER SHORTAGES AND ON THIS BASIS, WE WILL CONSIDER ALLOWING MORE SKILLED PEOPLE TO BE BROUGHT IN UNDER EXISTING POLICY BUT WITH RELAXED CRITERIA," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO RESTRICT THE SKILLS TO BE IMPORTED TO ANY PARTICULAR INDUSTRY OR PROFESSION.

"THIS WILL BE DECIDED ON A NEEDS BASIS, AND ALL POTENTIAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY WILL BE CONSIDERED," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THIS RELAXATION DID NOT MEAN ANY CHANGE IN THE POLICY NOT TO ALLOW LARGE-SCALE IMPORTATION OF UNSKILLED LABOUR.

"WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WORKERS SHOULD SHARE THE FRUITS OF PROSPERITY DURING AN ECONOMIC BOOM, AND THAT THEIR WAGES SHOULD NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY LARGE-SCALE IMPORTATION.

"ANY RELAXATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE EXISTING POLICY WILL ONLY RESULT IN THE IMPORTATION OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF SKILLED PEOPLE, AND WILL BE TEMPORARY IN NATURE," HE STRESSED.

"DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN A FEW WEEKS' TIME," HE ADDED.

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CONTRACT SIGNED FOR NEW HELICOPTERS

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) AWARDED A US\$54 MILLION CONTRACT TO A US COMPANY, SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT, FOR THE PURCHASE OF EIGHT HELICOPTERS AS PART OF AN EXPANSION PROGRAMME OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE (RHKAAF).

THE EIGHT SIKORSKY S-76 AIRCRAFT INCLUDE FIVE GENERAL PURPOSE HELICOPTERS AND THREE SEARCH AND RESCUE VARIANTS.

THREE OF THE GENERAL PURPOSE HELICOPTERS AND THE THREE SEARCH AND RESCUE VARIANTS ARE SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY IN JUNE AND OCTOBER 1990 RESPECTIVELY. THE REMAINING TWO ARE DUE FOR DELIVERY IN 1991 AND 1992.

THE NEW AIRCRAFT WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING THREE DAUPHIN HELICOPTERS WHICH WILL BE DISPOSED OF LATER.

WHEN FULLY OPERATIONAL, THE NEW HELICOPTERS WILL INTRODUCE TO THE RHKAAF THE CAPABILITY OF CARRYING OUT SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS AT NIGHT AND IN BAD WEATHER.

ALSO THE EXPANDED FLEET WILL ENABLE THE RHKAAF TO IMPROVE ITS OPERATIONAL SUPPORT TO THE POLICE FORCE AND TO TAKE OVER THOSE HELICOPTER SERVICES AT PRESENT PROVIDED TO THE POLICE BY THE ROYAL AIR FORCE AND THE ARMY.

THE CONTRACT ALSO INCLUDES AN OPTION FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR GENERAL PURPOSE HELICOPTERS. THE NEED TO EXERCISE THIS OPTION WILL BE REVIEWED IN 1991-92.

THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES, MR ROY KILVERT, TODAY SIGNED THE CONTRACT WITH THE PRESIDENT OF SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT, MR EUGENE BUCKLEY.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY WERE US CONSUL-GENERAL, MR DONALD ANDERSON; CHIEF STAFF OFFICER OF THE RHKAAF, MR JOHN SHAWCROSS; AND THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL MARKETING OF SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT, MR ROBERT KELLY.

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PROGRESS OF WASTE DISPOSAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS SATISFACTORY

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MEMBERS OF THE STEERING GROUP ON DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON PRIVATE FARMS UNDER THE LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TODAY (TUESDAY) HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS HAD PROGRESSED SATISFACTORILY.

AT A MEETING OF THE STEERING GROUP THIS AFTERNOON, MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED BY OFFICIALS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PROJECTS.

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OUT OF THE NINE PRIVATE FARMS PARTICIPATING IN THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, THE TREATMENT SYSTEMS IN SIX FARMS WERE ALREADY OPERATIONAL WHILE THE SYSTEMS IN TWO OTHER FARMS WERE BEING COMMISSIONED BY THE CONSULTANT.

WORKS ON THE REMAINING FARM, WHICH WAS FOR THE DEMONSTRATION OF THE WET MUCK-OUT SYSTEM, WERE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED SOON AND THE SYSTEM COULD BE OPERATIONAL NEXT MONTH.

THE STEERING GROUP WAS BRIEFED THAT OPERATORS OF THE THREE FARMS TAKING PART IN THE DEMONSTRATION OF THE DRY MUCK-OUT SYSTEM HAD BEEN TRAINED BY THE CONSULTANT ON HOW TO USE THE FACILITIES AND THAT THE SYSTEMS HAD BEEN WORKING SATISFACTORILY.

AS FOR THE THREE FARMS FOR THE DEMONSTRATION OF THE PIG-ON-LITTER SYSTEM, TWO FARMS HAD THEIR SYSTEMS PUT INTO OPERATION IN JANUARY. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SYSTEMS WAS SATISFACTORY AND BOTH FARMS HAD ALREADY SOLD TWO LOTS OF PIGS SINCE.

OPERATIONS ON THE THIRD FARM HAD ALSO STARTED. WORKS ON THE FARM HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED EXCEPT FOR MODIFICATION WORKS ON THE SOW PEN AND THE ROOF WATER COOLING SYSTEM.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE SOW PENS WERE AFFECTED BY THE LIMITED SPACE IN THE PIGSTY AND MODIFICATION WORK WOULD BE CARRIED OUT TO OVERCOME THE CONSTRAINT WHILE THE ROOF WATER COOLING SYSTEM WAS BEING INSTALLED AND WOULD BE TESTED SOON.

THE REST OF THE SYSTEM WAS PUT INTO OPERATION SINCE JANUARY AND THE SYSTEM HAD BEEN WORKING SATISFACTORILY AND NEW BORN PIGLETS AND PORKERS WERE IN GOOD HEALTH.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT ALSO TABLED THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE MANUALS FOR THE HYBRID METHOD, TOGETHER WITH A SECOND PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PROJECTS FOR MEMBERS COMMENT.

CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING GROUP, MR LEO KWAN, SAID THAT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE FOR OTHER INTERESTED FARMERS TO VISIT THE FARMS PARTICIPATING IN THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO ENABLE THEM TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON THE OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE VARIOUS SYSTEM.

AFTER THE MEETING, MEMBERS OF THE STEERING GROUP WENT TO THREE OF THE FARMS TO CLOSELY MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

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TEXTILES IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM TO BE COMPUTERISED
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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) SIGNED A CONTRACT VALUED AT \$856,000 WITH EDPS SYSTEMS LTD FOR THE PROVISION OF COMPUTER SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR THE COMPUTERISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S TEXTILES IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM.

IMPORTS OF TEXTILES INTO HONG KONG ARE SUBJECT TO THE ISSUE OF IMPORT LICENCES BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT. AT PRESENT, ALL TEXTILES IMPORT LICENCES ARE PROCESSED MANUALLY AND THE EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS IN RECENT YEARS HAS PLACED A HEAVY STRAIN ON STAFF RESOURCES.

IN 1988, THE TRADE DEPARTMENT PROCESSED MORE THAN ONE MILLION TEXTILES IMPORT LICENCES, UP 15.5 PER CENT ON 1987. THESE WORKED OUT AT ABOUT 4,000 LICENCES PER WORKING DAY.

FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1989, THE NUMBER OF TEXTILES IMPORT LICENCES PROCESSED ROSE BY 25 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1988.

"APART FROM STREAMLINING THE EXISTING OPERATION, COMPUTERISATION OF THE TEXTILES IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM WILL HELP PROVIDE ESSENTIAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION ON THE FLOW OF TEXTILE PRODUCTS INTO HONG KONG," MR MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TRADE, SAID TODAY AT THE CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY.

"THIS WILL ALSO ENHANCE THE TRADE DEPARTMENT'S SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING ABILITY," HE ADDED.

MR CHEUNG SAID THAT COMPUTERISATION WOULD HELP ELIMINATE HUMAN ERROR AND IMPROVE STATISTICAL COMPILATION.

THE COMPUTERISED TEXTILES IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO COME ON STREAM BY FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

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DEPOSIT-TAKING FIRM REGISTRATION REVOKED
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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF BACHE TRADE FINANCE ASIA LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY (APRIL 4) AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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COMPANY REGISTRATION REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF F.E.B. FINANCE LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY (APRIL 4) AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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RESULTS OF SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS
AND SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

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THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FUND COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF ITS \$2.5 MILLION SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES FOR LOCAL TERTIARY STUDENTS AND STUDENTS WHO WOULD FURTHER THEIR STUDIES OVERSEAS IN THE 1989-90 ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR STEPHEN CHEONG, SAID: "THE LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP SCHEME IS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARD AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

"THE AWARDS FOR STUDIES OVERSEAS ARE TO PROVIDE FOR THE EDUCATION OF SOME OF HONG KONG'S BRIGHTEST STUDENTS AT THE FINEST ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE WORLD."

THIS YEAR, 36 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS FROM LOCAL TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WERE SELECTED FOR THE LOCAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDS TOTALLING \$900,000.

AMONGST THEM, 16 ARE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (HKU); 13 FROM THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (CUHK); SIX FROM THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC (HKP) AND ONE FROM THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG (CPHK).

THESE FELLOWSHIPS ARE WORTH \$25,000 EACH AND MAY BE RENEWED IF THE RECIPIENTS SHOW SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IN THEIR RESEARCH PROJECTS.

SIXTY UNDERGRADUATE AND DIPLOMA STUDENTS WERE ALSO AWARDED THE YOUDE SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALLING \$600,000 THIS YEAR. OF THESE, 16 STUDENTS ARE FROM HKU; 19 FROM CUHK; 14 FROM HKP; SEVEN FROM CPHK AND FOUR FROM THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE.

MR CHEONG SAID THE FELLOWSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP CANDIDATES WERE NOMINATED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE INSTITUTIONS AND SELECTED BY THE COUNCIL.

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"THEY HAD TO GO THROUGH A RIGOROUS SELECTION INTERVIEW BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL INCLUDING PROFESSOR LEUNG WAI-SUN, PROFESSOR BENJAMIN T'SOU, DR LUI MING-WAH AND MR ANTHONY KAN," HE SAID.

UNDER THE OVERSEAS SCHEME, EIGHT OUTSTANDING STUDENTS HAD BEEN SELECTED FOR THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL OVERSEAS FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THEIR STUDIES ABROAD COMMENCING IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

THE FOUR FELLOWSHIPS WERE AWARDED TO A PRACTISING ARCHITECT MISS CHAN CHUI-YI, A PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATE FROM OXFORD MR HO KOON-YIN, A POSTGRADUATE LAW STUDENT AT HKU MR PETER WONG HING-HONG AND AN M PHIL ENGINEERING STUDENT AT HKP MR KASIM WONG KAR-LIK.

THE FOUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ARE MR HENRICK YAU HIN-TAT OF LA SALLE COLLEGE, MR KAN KIN-HONG OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE, MISS VIRGINIA TAM MAN-LEUNG OF QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL AND MISS HSIN HSIAO-LING OF THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS.

MR CHEONG SAID THE STUDENTS HAD BEEN CHOSEN FROM OVER 250 APPLICANTS AFTER TWO SELECTION INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY THE FULL COUNCIL AND TWO EXTERNAL MEMBERS, NAMELY, DR RAYMOND HO CHUNG-TAI OF MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA LTD AND DR WONG KWAN-YIU OF CUHK.

EACH FELLOWSHIP WINNER WILL RECEIVE \$135,000 PER YEAR AND EACH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER, \$120,000 PER YEAR. ALL WINNERS ARE REQUIRED TO WORK IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES. THEY ARE:

MISS CHAN CHUI-YI, 27, GAINED DISTINCTION IN HER 1985 BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE EXAMINATION AT HKU. SHE INTENDS TO STUDY A TWO-YEAR MASTER DEGREE COURSE IN URBAN DESIGN AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES.

MR HO KOON-YIN, 22, HAD A FIRST CLASS HONOURS AFTER READING EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY. HE PLANS TO PURSUE A DOCTORATE DEGREE IN NEUROPSYCHOLOGY AT EITHER OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

MR PETER WONG, 22, WHO IS CURRENTLY A POSTGRADUATE LAW STUDENT AT HKU, SAID HE HOPED TO FURTHER HIS STUDY IN LAW FOR A YEAR AT CAMBRIDGE. "I WISH TO SPECIALISE IN INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAWS WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO HONG KONG AS A BOOMING INTERNATIONAL CITY," SAID MR WONG.

MR KASIM WONG, 26, WHO HAS BEEN PROVISIONALLY OFFERED A PLACE AT THE UK IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE, SAID HE WOULD CONDUCT RESEARCH INTO COMPUTER SCIENCE USING THE FELLOWSHIP FUND.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER MR HENRICK YAU OBTAINED NINE DISTINCTIONS IN THE 1988 CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION WHILE MR KAN KIN-HONG AND MISS VIRGINIA TAM BOTH HAD EIGHT A GRADES AND ONE B GRADE.

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BOTH MR YAU AND MR KAN ARE 17 YEARS OLD AND HOPE TO STUDY ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AT THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY OR THE MASSACHUSETTES INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE US; MISS TAM WHO IS 18 WILL STUDY COMPUTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY.

"THIS YEAR WE ARE ALSO VERY PROUD TO SEND FOR THE FIRST TIME A SCHOLAR TO READ MUSIC IN CHINA," SAID MR CHEONG.

"MISS HSIN HSIAO-LING WHO HAS ATTAINED EXCELLENT ACHIEVEMENT IN MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS WILL FURTHER HER STUDY IN "ER-HU" IN THE CENTRAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC IN BEIJING.

"WE ARE SURE MISS HSIN WILL BENEFIT FROM THE VERY HIGH STANDARD ER-HU PROFESSIONALS THERE AND UPON RETURN, MAKE CONTRIBUTION TO THE MUSIC SCENE OF HONG KONG," SAID MR CHEONG.

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DB TO DISCUSS CONSTRUCTION OF CONTAINER TERMINAL
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THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON THURSDAY (APRIL 6) TO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT CONTAINER TERMINAL NO. 8 AT STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

MEMBERS WILL BE ASKING ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER QUALITY, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MATTERS, AS WELL AS OTHER RELATED ASPECTS.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION INCLUDE A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT, ALLOCATION OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR THE YEAR 1989-90, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CULTURAL CENTRE IN SHAM SHUI PO.

PRIOR TO THE DISCUSSIONS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS, MR ARTHUR GARCIA, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE WORK OF HIS OFFICE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 6) AT THE SHEK KIP MEI COMMUNITY HALL, BLOCK 42, SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN KOWLOON TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY WILL SEEK COURT ORDERS TO CLOSE THREE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF KOWLOON SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND TO THE PUBLIC.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS WERE POSTED ON CONSPICUOUS PARTS OF THE STRUCTURES TODAY (TUESDAY).

ONE OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IS ON THE MAIN ROOF OF NO. 128, YU CHAU STREET. THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE THE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN APRIL 1988 AND DECEMBER 1988 REQUIRING ITS DEMOLITION.

IT IS INTENDED THAT A CLOSURE ORDER BE SOUGHT FROM THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COURT ON JULY 4, 1989.

THE OTHER TWO ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ARE ON THE FLAT ROOF ADJACENT TO FALT A, 1/F., MAY COURT, 38-44 PAU CHUNG STREET; AND AT FLAT E, 1/F., ON CHEONG BUILDING, 40 MEI KWONG STREET.

THE CLOSURE OF THE TWO ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IS TO ENFORCE ORDERS ISSUED ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE REQUIRING THEIR DEMOLITION WITH WHICH THE OWNERS HAD FAILED TO COMPLY.

THE ORDER WAS ISSUED ON JANUARY 7, 1985 IN RESPECT OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURE AT MAY COURT AND ON JUNE 16, 1987 IN RESPECT OF THAT AT ON CHEONG BUILDING.

THE CLOSURE ORDERS FOR THE TWO ILLEGAL STRUCTURES WILL BE SOUGHT FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON MAY 2, 1989 AND ON JULY 5, 1989 RESPECTIVELY.

DEMOLITION WORK ON THE THREE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE OBTAINED.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS VISIT FSD

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MEMBERS OF THE RECENTLY FORMED STANDING COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINED SERVICES SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE VISITED THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE FIVE-MEMBER DELEGATION WAS LED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, MR JOHN SWAINE.

FOUR OTHER MEMBERS, MR PAUL CHENG, MR ANTHONY CHEUNG, MR CHOW CHUN-FAI AND MRS MIRIAM LAU, ALSO TOOK PART IN THE VISIT. MR CHENG IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL DISCIPLINED SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE.

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THEY WERE RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR JOHN MARCH AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MR JERRY LAM CHEK-YUEN AND OTHER SENIOR STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI FIRE STATION.

THE PARTY SAW A DISPLAY OF UNDERWATER DIVING GEAR, CUTTING AND BREAKING-IN EQUIPMENT, BREATHING APPARATUS AND VARIOUS EMERGENCY VEHICLES INCLUDING AMBULANCE AID MOTORCYCLES AND A MOBILE CASUALTY TREATMENT CENTRE.

THEY ALSO VIEWED DEMONSTRATIONS OF A SIMULATED FIRE FIGHTING EXERCISE AND VARIOUS TYPES OF RESCUE OPERATIONS.

THE DELEGATION THEN HELD INFORMAL TALKS WITH THE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES WHICH ARE OF CURRENT CONCERN TO THE DEPARTMENT AND ITS STAFF.

THE MEMBERS LATER BOARDED FIRE BOAT NO.6 FOR A CROSS HARBOUR TRIP TO CENTRAL.

TODAY'S VISIT WAS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF FAMILIARISATION TOURS BY MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO SEE THE WORK OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES.

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REGIONAL SECRETARY VISITS KWAI TSING

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU, TODAY (TUESDAY) VISITED KWAI TSING DISTRICT TO UPDATE HIMSELF ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS THERE.

MR HSU WAS BRIEFED BY KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PAUL TANG, ON THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, AREA COMMITTEES AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, AS WELL AS THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE DISTRICT'S INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM.

MR HSU STARTED HIS TOUR AT THE WONDERLAND VILLA WHERE HE HAD A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE DISTRICT.

HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON HOUSING, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT, AND THE CONTAINER PORT.

AT TSING YI ISLAND, MR HSU WAS BRIEFED ON NEWLY-COMPLETED PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AT THE NORTHERN SHORE, SHIPYARDS, A CEMENT FACTORY AND THE TSING YI INDUSTRIAL CENTRE.

AFTER THE VISIT, MR HSU SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE RAPID DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

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TOP DANCERS SHOW WINNING STYLE

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PRIZE-WINNING TEAMS OF THE 18TH OPEN DANCE CONTEST DISPLAYED TOP DANCING SKILLS AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL THIS (TUESDAY) EVENING.

DURING THE TWO-HOUR SHOW, A PACKED HOUSE WAS TREATED TO A VARIETY OF CHOREOGRAPHY, INCLUDING WESTERN, ORIENTAL, CLASSICAL AND MODERN DANCES.

THE 19 DANCING TEAMS, WHO DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN THE TERRITORY-WIDE CONTEST HELD IN JANUARY, ALSO RECEIVED THEIR AWARDS AT A CEREMONY HELD BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE.

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY, THE ACTING DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG & KOWLOON), MR GREGORY LEUNG, SAID THE OPEN DANCE CONTEST MARKED THE CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

HE SAID IT WAS PRAISEWORTHY FOR THE ORGANISING PARTIES TO HAVE MADE A LOCAL ACTIVITY A POPULAR TERRITORY-WIDE ANNUAL EVENT FOR THE PAST 18 YEARS.

MR LEUNG HOPED THAT THE ORGANISATIONS IN KWUN TONG DISTRICT WOULD KEEP UP THEIR EFFORTS IN PROMOTING CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES SO THAT THE DISTRICT WOULD NOT ONLY BE KNOWN AS AN INDUSTRIAL AREA BUT ALSO A COMMUNITY WHERE CULTURE AND ARTS COULD FLOURISH.

THE 18TH OPEN DANCE CONTEST WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT CULTURE AND RECREATION PROMOTION ASSOCIATION, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL AND SPONSORSHIP BY THE KWUN TONG ROTARY CLUB.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SHAM SHUI PO

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SHAM SHUI PO FROM THURSDAY (APRIL 6) FOR ROAD RESURFACING WORKS NEAR THE MEI FOO BUS TERMINUS.

THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM KWAI CHUNG ROAD EASTBOUND TO CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD NEAR THE MEI FOO BUS TERMINUS WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5.30 AM DAILY FROM APRIL 6 TO 8.

MOTORISTS FROM KWAI CHUNG ROAD EASTBOUND HEADING FOR MEI LAI ROAD ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA LAI CHI KOK ROAD EASTBOUND, THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM LAI CHI KOK ROAD EASTBOUND TO LAI CHI KOK ROAD WESTBOUND NEAR CHEUNG LAI STREET AND LAI CHI KOK ROAD WESTBOUND.

DURING THE CLOSURE, MONG KOK-BOUND KMB ROUTES 44S AND 59S AND GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 47S WILL BE RE-ROUTED VIA KWAI CHUNG ROAD EASTBOUND, A FLYOVER AND CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD.

MEANWHILE, THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM LAI CHI KOK ROAD WESTBOUND TO KWAI CHUNG ROAD NEAR THE MEI FOO BUS TERMINUS WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5.30 AM DAILY FROM APRIL 10 TO 12.

VEHICLES FROM LAI CHI KOK ROAD WESTBOUND HEADING FOR KWAI CHUNG ROAD, INCLUDING TUEN MUN-BOUND GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 47S, WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE FLYOVER LEADING FROM LAI CHI KOK ROAD WESTBOUND TO KWAI CHUNG ROAD NEAR YUET LUN STREET.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF VEHICULAR UNDERPASS IN SHAM SHUI PO

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE LUNG CHEUNG ROAD/NAM CHEONG STREET VEHICULAR UNDERPASS LEADING FROM LUNG CHEUNG ROAD EASTBOUND TO NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 1 AM TO 5 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 7) FOR CLEANSING WORK.

VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA LUNG PING ROAD, A FLYOVER AND NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND.

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