



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1982

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

\$671 300 ALLOCATED FROM CHARITABLE FUND AS +LAI SEE+ TO NEEDY	1
MARINE OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS	2
KOWLOON PARK COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN	3
MONTHLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL AND ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR NOVEMBER 1981	4
EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER 1981	5
VILLAGE REMOVAL SCHEME	11
INSIDE A DISTRICT BOARD	12
MORE MARKETS FOR TUEN MUN	14
TAI PO'S OLDEST PEOPLE TO ATTEND FEAST	15
TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL OUTDOOR EVENTS	16
LUNAR NEW YEAR FIRE SAFETY ADVICE	17
FEEDER BUS ROUTES FOR TSUEN WAN MTR EXTENSION	18
TSUEN WAN TRAFFIC	19

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1982

- 1 -

\$671 300 ALLOCATED FROM CHARITABLE FUND AS +LAI SEE+ TO NEEDY
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A TOTAL OF \$671 300 HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE TANG SHIU-KIN HO TIM CHARITABLE FUND, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, FOR DISTRIBUTION AS LUNAR NEW YEAR +LAI SEE+ TO NEEDY PEOPLE BEFORE THE FESTIVE SEASON.

AT A MEETING LAST MONTH, THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE FUND DECIDED ON THE FESTIVE GRANTS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, WHO IS THE TRUSTEE OF THE FUND.

RED PACKETS OF \$100 EACH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO 1 741 WIDOWS OR WIDOWERS WHO HAVE DEPENDENT CHILDREN AND ARE RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND 4 656 RESIDENTS OF 50 HOMES AND HOSTELS FOR THE ELDERLY.

IN ADDITION, 316 ELDERLY PATIENTS OF FIVE HOSPITALS BELONGING TO THE TUNG WAH GROUP WHO HAVE NO CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS OR NO HOMES TO RETURN TO WILL ALSO RECEIVE THE RED PACKETS.

A CO-FOUNDER OF THE CHARITABLE FUND, SIR SHIU-KIN TANG, ACCOMPANIED BY MR ALLEYNE, WILL PERSONALLY DISTRIBUTE THE RED PACKETS TO WIDOWED FAMILIES IN THE HONG KONG REGION AT ONE OF THE DISTRIBUTION PLACES TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

FILM STAR MISS FUNG PO-PO WILL ALSO BE PRESENT TO HELP DISTRIBUTE +LAI SEE+.

WIDOWED FAMILIES IN OTHER PARTS OF THE TERRITORY WILL RECEIVE THE +LAI SEE+ THROUGH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICES.

RED PACKETS FOR RESIDENTS OF OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES AND HOSTELS AND THE FIVE TUNG WAH HOSPITALS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE INSTITUTIONS THEMSELVES.

THE FUND, FOUNDED IN 1977, PROVIDES IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES WHO REQUIRE IT. IT ASSISTS PEOPLE IN COPING WITH HARDSHIPS ARISING FROM UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS THE DEATH OF A BREADWINNER, AN ACCIDENT TO A FAMILY MEMBER AND SUDDEN OR PROLONGED SERIOUS ILLNESS.

AS A RESULT OF THESE HARDSHIPS, CASH GRANTS ARE PROVIDED TO MAINTAIN A CHILD THROUGH HIS EDUCATION, TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT SUCH AS WHEELCHAIRS, OR TO MEET ABNORMALLY HIGH COSTS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT, SPECIAL DIETS OR OTHER NEEDS.

GRANTS ARE ALSO GIVEN TO MEET SPECIAL NEEDS ARISING FROM PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS AND THE BASIC NEEDS OF THOSE WHO DO NOT QUALIFY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

IN PARTICULAR, THE FUND MEETS THE URGENT NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS.

/APPLICATIONS FOR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1982

- 2 -

APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND CAN BE MADE TO THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, PO LEUNG KUK, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, CITY DISTRICT OFFICES OR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

SOCIAL WORKERS OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MAY ALSO REFER HARDSHIP CASES TO THE SECRETARY OF THE FUND OR THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

SIR SHIU-KIN, ACCOMPANIED BY MR ALLEYNE, WILL DISTRIBUTE +LAI SEE+ TO WIDOWED FAMILIES ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN THE HALL OF PO LEUNG KUK, MAIN BUILDING, AT 3 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY). EACH FAMILY WILL RECEIVE A RED PACKET OF \$100. ALSO PRESENT WILL BE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE (OPERATIONS), MRS EVELYN DOE.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE +LAI SEE+ DISTRIBUTION.

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MARINE OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT ITS OFFICES WILL OBSERVE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS ON JANUARY 25, 26 AND 27, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS :

- * THE SIX PUBLIC CARGO-WORKING AREAS IN WAN CHAI, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG, TSUEN WAN, WESTERN DISTRICT AND RAMBLER CHANNEL TYPHOON SHELTER WILL BE CLOSED FROM 9 PM ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 24) TO 7 AM ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 27)-
- * VESSELS WITH VALID PERMIT MAY BERTH AT THOSE AREAS DURING THE HOLIDAYS-
- * MACAU FERRY TERMINAL OFFICES WILL BE OPEN THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAYS-
- * THE ENTRY AND CLEARANCE OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 12 NOON ON MONDAY (JANUARY 25)- AND
- * THE VICTORIA LOCAL CRAFT CONTROL OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 26).

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/3

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1982

- 3 -

KOWLOON PARK COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT BELOW KOWLOON PARK, FRONTING NATHAN ROAD IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT INITIALLY THE SCHEME WOULD INVOLVE THE SALE OF SHOPPING SITES FRONTING NATHAN ROAD.

HOWEVER, NO DATE HAS YET BEEN FIXED FOR THE SALE OF LAND.

THE PLAN, FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1976 UNDER THE DRAFT TSIM SHA TSUI OUTLINE ZONING PLAN, PROPOSES THAT THREE BLOCKS OF ONE AND TWO-STORY SHOPS WITH BASEMENTS BE BUILT ALONG THE NATHAN ROAD FRONTAGE OF THE PARK.

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT THE PLAN AIMED TO MAXIMISE THE USE OF LAND AS THE BUILDINGS WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED TO A UNIFORM DESIGN WITH ROOFS BELOW THE PARK LEVEL.

HE SAID THAT THE USABLE RECREATIONAL AREA OF THE PARK WOULD BE INCREASED BY EXTENDING OVER THE ROOFS OF THE SHOPS.

+ANOTHER ADVANTAGE WILL BE THAT ACCESS TO THE PARK FROM NATHAN ROAD WILL BE CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED AS THE THREE SHOPPING BLOCKS WILL BE SEPARATED BY 15-METRE WIDE STAIRWAYS GIVING GENEROUS OPEN PUBLIC ACCESS INTO THE PARK,+ HE ADDED.

REFERRING TO THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY SOME QUARTERS ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON THE PARK, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT BUILDING DESIGN AND USE WOULD BE CAREFULLY CONTROLLED BY LEASE CONDITIONS, THUS THE AMENITY VALUE AND VISUAL IMPACT OF THE SHOPS WOULD BE COMPLEMENTING RATHER THAN CONFLICTING WITH THE USE OF THE PARK.

HE ADDED THAT THE PROVISION OF A ROW OF ATTRACTIVE COLONNADED SHOPS LINKING THE EXISTING SHOPPING AREAS TO THE SOUTH AND NORTH OF THE PARK ALONG NATHAN ROAD WOULD BRING LIFE TO THE PARK DURING DAY AND NIGHT.

IN ADDITION, THE PROVISION OF TWO PEDESTRIAN ACCESSES TO THE PARK THROUGH THE PROPOSED SHOPS WOULD STIMULATE THE USE OF THE PARK.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID WHILE THE SMALL TREES ALONG THE EMBANKMENT OF THE PARK WOULD HAVE TO BE FELLED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE SHOPS, THE MATURE BANYAN TREES FRONTING NATHAN ROAD, OUTSIDE THE PARK, WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED EXCEPT, POSSIBLY, FOR SOME TRIMMING OF SIDE-BRANCHES WHICH MIGHT HAVE GROWN FURTHER OUTWARD OVER THE PROPOSED SHOP FRONTAGE.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1982

- 4 -

MONTHLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL AND
ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR NOVEMBER 1981

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED STATISTICS FROM THE MONTHLY SURVEY FOR NOVEMBER 1981, WHICH WAS CONDUCTED ON AN UPDATED AND ENLARGED PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZE IN SEPTEMBER 1979, AS WELL AS A PANEL OF THE 43 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS.

AS THE SAMPLE WAS NOT DRAWN ON A RANDOM BASIS, THE RESULTS ON MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE MIGHT NOT REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, BUT SHOULD GIVE USEFUL INDICATIONS OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT RUN.

ACCORDING TO THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED, EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS DECLINED SLIGHTLY IN NOVEMBER 1981 COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH.

EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS DROPPED IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY BECAUSE OF LESS DEMAND FOR SOFT DRINKS IN THE WINTER SEASON.

SINCE SEVERENCE PAY WAS AWARDED TO WORKERS IN TWO FACTORIES SURVEYED IN THE PRECEDING MONTH, PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY ALSO DROPPED IN NOVEMBER 1981.

IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY, THE DECREASE IN PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS WAS DUE TO LESS OVERTIME WORKED.

PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR IN NOVEMBER 1981 ON ACCOUNT OF WAGE ADJUSTMENT AND THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES IN A FEW COMPANIES SURVEYED.

PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS DECREASED IN THE CASE OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BECAUSE OF SERVICE BONUSES HAVING BEEN PAID IN THE PRECEDING MONTH.

THE VOLUME OF ORDERS HELD BY THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED IN NOVEMBER 1981 GENERALLY REMAINED STABLE COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH. FEWER ORDERS WERE RECEIVED IN THE TEXTILES, WEARING APPAREL, AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, BUT MORE ORDERS WERE RECEIVED IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT, PER CAPITA EARNINGS AND ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS ARE SHOWN IN THE TABLE WHICH MAY BE COLLECTED FROM THE GIS PRESS BOXES.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1981 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, AT \$1 PER COPY. ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 3-7221914.

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EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER 1981
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY PUBLISHED EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN SEPTEMBER 1981.

THESE WERE DERIVED FROM THE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL CONDUCTED EVERY QUARTER BY THE DEPARTMENT COVERING THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR- THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR- THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTORS.

A SEPARATE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY COVERS BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES.

THE OVERALL FIGURES, TOGETHER WITH A COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 1980 AND JUNE 1981 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY	EMPLOYMENT IN			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	SEP 80	JUN 81	SEP 81	SEP 81 ON SEP 80	SEP 81 ON JUN 81
MANUFACTURING	892 100	942 800	904 600	+ 1.4	-4.0
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON SITES ONLY)	89 700	86 800	82 700	- 7.7	-4.7
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	447 300	455 800	474 000	+ 6.0	+4.0
FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	126 600	141 700	148 900	+17.7	+5.1

COMPARING THE FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 1981 WITH THOSE FOR THE SAME TIME IN 1980, THERE WERE INCREASES IN EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR- THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

THE RAPID GROWTH RATE IN THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR CONTINUED- EMPLOYMENT IN THIS SECTOR IN SEPTEMBER 1981, AT 148 900 WAS 17.7 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1980.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR IN SEPTEMBER 1981, AT 904 600 AND 474 000 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 1.4 PER CENT AND SIX PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1980. ON THE OTHER HAND, EMPLOYMENT IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES DECREASED BY 7.7 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR.

COMPARING THE FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 1981 WITH THOSE FOR JUNE 1981, GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT VARIED IN EACH OF THE FOUR SECTORS ABOVE.

INCREASES OF FOUR PER CENT AND 5.1 PER CENT IN EMPLOYMENT WERE REGISTERED RESPECTIVELY IN THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES OF FOUR PER CENT AND 4.7 PER CENT IN EMPLOYMENT WERE OBSERVED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES RESPECTIVELY.

TOGETHER WITH EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ALSO PUBLISHED VACANCY STATISTICS FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR= THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR= AND THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR IN SEPTEMBER 1981. THESE WERE COMPILED FROM THE NUMBER OF JOB VACANCIES REPORTED BY ESTABLISHMENTS COVERED BY THE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN THESE SECTORS. THE OVERALL FIGURES, TOGETHER WITH A COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 1980 AND JUNE 1981, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY	NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES IN			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	SEP 80	JUN 81	SEP 81	SEP 81 ON SEP 80	SEP 81 ON JUN 81
MANUFACTURING	37 400	42 000	47 900	+28.0	+14.0
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	5 900	5 000	6 600	+11.0	+30.4
FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	2 400	2 100	2 200	- 8.3	+ 4.6

COMPARING THE FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 1981 WITH THOSE FOR THE SAME TIME IN 1980, THERE WERE INCREASES OF 28 PER CENT AND 11 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR RESPECTIVELY. FOR THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, THE NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES DECREASED BY 8.3 PER CENT RELATIVE TO THE SAME TIME IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

COMPARING THE FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 1981 WITH THOSE FOR JUNE 1981, THE NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES INCREASED IN ALL OF THE ABOVE SECTORS.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL ARE STATISTICS ON MONTHLY PAYROLL OUTLAYS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR- THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR- AND THE FINANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR. QUARTERLY TOTALS IN EACH OF THE ABOVE SECTORS ARE SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

TOTAL QUARTERLY PAYROLL IN

SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY	3RD QTR. 1980	2ND QTR. 1981	3RD QTR. 1981	<u>% CHANGE</u>	
				3RD QTR. 1981 ON 3RD QTR. 1980	3RD QTR. 1981 ON 2ND QTR. 1981
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
MANUFACTURING	4 074	4 654	4 770	+17.1	+2.5
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	2 085	2 438	2 674	+28.3	+9.7
FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	964	1 241	1 351	+40.3	+8.9

RELATIVE TO THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AS WELL AS THE SAME QUARTER A YEAR AGO, PAYROLL OUTLAYS INCREASED IN EACH OF THE ABOVE SECTOR. THE INCREASE WAS PARTICULARLY RAPID IN THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, WHICH REGISTERED INCREASES OF 8.9 PER CENT AND 40.3 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND THE SAME QUARTER A YEAR AGO RESPECTIVELY.

TO ADJUST FOR VARIATIONS IN TOTAL PAYROLL OUTLAYS ARISING FROM CHANGES IN THE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT, A NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IS OBTAINED. TO FURTHER ALLOW FOR DIFFERENCES IN PURCHASING POWER, THE NOMINAL INDEX IS ADJUSTED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) TO GIVE THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED. VALUES OF THESE TWO INDICES ARE GIVEN IN THE TABLES BELOW:

/SECTOR OF

SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY	NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (JUNE 1980 = 100)			% CHANGE	
	SEPT.80	JUNE 81	SEPT.81	SEPT.81 ON SEPT.80	SEPT.81 ON JUNE 81
	MANUFACTURING	104.7	119.1	122.5	+17.0
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	104.1	119.1	124.8	+19.9	+4.8
FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	100.6	117.2	120.2	+19.5	+2.6

SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY	REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (JUNE 1980 =100)			% CHANGE	
	SEPT.80	JUNE 81	SEPT.81	SEPT.81 ON SEPT.80	SEPT.81 ON JUNE 81
	MANUFACTURING	99.8	102.9	102.3	+2.5
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	99.2	102.9	104.2	+5.0	+1.3
FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	95.9	101.3	100.3	+4.6	-1.0

COMPARING WITH SEPTEMBER 1980, INCREASES OF 17.0 PER CENT, 19.9 PER CENT AND 19.5 PER CENT WERE REGISTERED IN THE NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR- WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR- AND THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED SHOWED MODERATE INCREASES OF 2.5 PER CENT, 5.0 PER CENT AND 4.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR- WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR- AND THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

/COMPARING WITH

COMPARING WITH JUNE 1981, INCREASES OF 2.9 PER CENT, 4.8 PER CENT AND 2.6 PER CENT IN THE NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED WERE RESPECTIVELY REGISTERED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR- THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AND THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED SHOWED MINOR DECREASES OF 0.6 PER CENT AND 1.0 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND THE FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE SECTOR. ON THE OTHER HAND, AN INCREASE OF 1.3 PER CENT WAS REGISTERED IN THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR.

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR SELECTED INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES WITHIN THE FOUR SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN THE TABLES FOLLOWING. FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

DETAILS OF EMPLOYMENT IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES

I. MANUFACTURING SECTOR

<u>INDUSTRY GROUP</u>	<u>EMPLOYMENT IN</u>			<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</u>	
	<u>SEPT 80</u>	<u>JUNE 81</u>	<u>SEPT 81</u>	<u>SEPT 81 ON SEPT 80</u>	<u>SEPT 81 ON JUNE 81</u>
WEARING APPAREL (EXCLUDING KNITWEAR FROM YARN)	255 700	277 000	258 300	+1.0	-6.7
TEXTILES (INCLUDING KNITWEAR FROM YARN)	124 600	124 600	123 400	-1.0	-1.0
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES, INCLUDING ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	119 100	131 800	124 100	+4.2	-5.8
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	86 300	94 300	89 100	+3.3	-5.5
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	84 800	85 000	82 100	-3.1	-3.4

/II. BUILDING

II. BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

(MANUAL WORKERS ON SITES ONLY)

CONTRACTING PARTY	EMPLOYMENT IN			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	SEPT 80	JUNE 81	SEPT 81	SEPT 81 ON SEPT 80	SEPT 81 ON JUNE 81
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	14 400	17 000	16 500	+14.4	- 2.6
HOUSING DEPARTMENT	15 900	16 500	15 000	- 5.6	- 8.7
MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION *	4 400	1 900	1 700	-62.6	-12.1
PRIVATE SECTOR	54 900 [@]	51 500	49 500	- 9.8	- 3.8

* CONSTRUCTION SITES UNDER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION REFER TO M.T.R. CONTRACTS FOR WHICH WORK WAS IN PROGRESS DURING SEPTEMBER 1981.

@ REVISED FIGURE

III. WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR

INDUSTRY GROUP	EMPLOYMENT IN			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	SEPT 80	JUNE 81	SEPT 81	SEPT 81 ON SEPT 80	SEPT 81 ON JUNE 81
WHOLESALE TRADE	49 800	51 200	52 800	+5.9	+3.1
RETAIL TRADE	149 600	149 600	155 900	+4.2	+4.2
IMPORT/EXPORT BUSINESS	115 000	115 200	119 500	+3.9	+3.7
RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS	114 000	119 800	125 200	+9.9	+4.5
HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES	18 900	20 000	20 600	+9.4	+3.3

/IV. FINANCE,

IV. FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND
BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR

INDUSTRY GROUP	EMPLOYMENT IN			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	SEPT 80	JUNE 81	SEPT 81	SEPT 81 ON SEPT 80	SEPT 81 ON JUNE 81
MONETARY INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING BANKS	42 600	45 300	47 800	+12.0	+5.5
REAL ESTATE COMPANIES	18 400	22 100	22 300	+21.1	+0.8
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	18 800	23 200	24 700	+31.5	+6.7
ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING FIRMS	5 400	5 400	5 600	+ 3.9	+3.9
ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	8 100	9 500	9 800	+20.7	+3.0

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VILLAGE REMOVAL SCHEME
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RESIDENTS OF A 200-YEAR-OLD VILLAGE IN SHA TIN, TSOK POK HANG, WILL MOVE TO A NEW SITE ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 21) UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S VILLAGE REMOVAL SCHEME.

THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES), DR RICHARD BUTLER, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE MOVING-IN CEREMONY AT 11.30 AM.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT. A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 10.45 AM. STAFF OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION UNIT WILL ASSIST THE MEDIA.

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INSIDE A DISTRICT BOARD
* * *

1982 WILL BE THE YEAR OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

BY MARCH THE LAST FOUR UNESTABLISHED DISTRICT BOARDS WILL BE SET UP IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN (ONE DISTRICT), WAN CHAI, YAU MA TEI AND MONG KOK, JOINING THE 14 BOARDS WHICH ARE ALREADY WORKING.

ELECTIONS FOR NEW TERRITORIES BOARDS WILL TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 4, AND THOSE FOR URBAN BOARDS WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY IS AWARE OF THE INFLUENCE THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM HAS ON THEM, AND OF THE BENEFITS IT BRINGS.

ONE SHOULD START WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SET-UP AND THE OPERATION OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

AT PRESENT, THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS AND SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM DISTRICT TO DISTRICT, HAVING REGARD TO THEIR PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

BUT THEIR FUNDAMENTAL COMPOSITION AND SET-UP IS SIMILAR. A TYPICAL EXAMPLE CAN BE FOUND IN THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, WHICH IS ONE OF THE LARGEST IN HONG KONG.

THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD AT PRESENT COMPRISES 29 MEMBERS, INCLUDING 11 OFFICIAL MEMBERS (REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHICH ARE MOST CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH MANAGEMENT AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL), 15 UNOFFICIAL APPOINTED MEMBERS (CITIZENS ENGAGED IN DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS) AND THREE RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN. THE BOARD IS HEADED BY THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER.

AFTER THE MARCH 4 ELECTION, FINAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD WILL BE: 10 ELECTED MEMBERS, 13 APPOINTED UNOFFICIALS, 11 OFFICIALS AND THREE RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.

LIKE ALL OTHER DISTRICT BOARDS, THERE IS A MAJORITY OF UNOFFICIALS ON THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE ELECTION.

URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS WILL COMPRISE OFFICIALS, APPOINTED UNOFFICIALS, URBAN COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS (AFTER THE SEPTEMBER ELECTION).

UNDER THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, THERE ARE SEVEN SUB-COMMITTEES DEALING WITH FINANCE, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT, CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES, RECREATION AND SPORTS, INDUSTRIAL MATTERS (AND PUBLIC FACILITIES), SOCIAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION (PROMOTION) RESPECTIVELY.

THE COMMITTEES HAVE AN AVERAGE OF 20 MEMBERS EACH, INCLUDING BOTH OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FROM THE BOARD ITSELF, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER PEOPLE CO-OPTED BY THE BOARD MEMBERS.

THESE COMMITTEES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDYING THE QUESTIONS AT ISSUE AND MAKING PROPOSALS TO THE BOARD.

THE BOARD ADVISES THE GOVERNMENT ON A WIDE RANGE OF DISTRICT MATTERS INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AND THE ADEQUACY AND PRIORITY OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE DISTRICT. IT FORWARDS ITS PROPOSALS OR OPINION TO THE HEAD OF THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS THROUGH ITS RESPECTIVE OFFICIAL MEMBER.

THERE ARE OTHER MATTERS, SUCH AS THE PROMOTION OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT, WHICH THE BOARD UNDERTAKES TO DO ITSELF.

IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD HAS COMMITTED 75 PER CENT (THREE MILLION DOLLARS) OF ITS FOUR MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET TO THE PROMOTION OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES. THE OTHER 25 PER CENT (ONE MILLION DOLLARS) IS COMMITTED TO MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

ONE FORTHCOMING CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ATTRACTION PRESENTED BY THE BOARD IN ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS IS THE 1.2 MILLION DOLLARS TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL FROM JANUARY 22 TO FEBRUARY 13, 1982.

THE GOVERNMENT, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS MADE AN EFFORT TO HELP DISTRICT BOARDS UNDERTAKE THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DUTIES.

THIS IS EVIDENCED BY A STEEP RISE OF NT DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FROM 3.7 MILLION DOLLARS IN THE 1978/79 FINANCIAL YEAR TO 12.2 MILLION DOLLARS THIS FINANCIAL YEAR. THE NT BOARDS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A FURTHER 60 PER CENT BUDGET INCREASE TO BOOST THEIR EFFORTS IN THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR.

WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD IS THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

AS IN OTHER DISTRICTS IN HONG KONG, THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IS ALSO HEADED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD, IN THIS CASE THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER. AT PRESENT, IT COMPRISES 17 MEMBERS, ALL OF WHICH ARE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS FROM DEPARTMENTS MOST CLOSELY CONCERNED WITH THE PROVISION OF SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT. SOME OF THE MEMBERS ARE ALSO OFFICIALS ON THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD.

THE COMMITTEE'S MAIN FUNCTION IS TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION AND CO-ORDINATION.

IT IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING THE WORK OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN THE DISTRICT AND ENSURING THAT THEY ARE AS RESPONSIVE AS IS PRACTICABLE TO DISTRICT NEEDS AND WISHES.

THE INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG WILL ENABLE BETTER CO-ORDINATION OF AND RESPONSIVENESS BY THE ADMINISTRATION AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

IN ADDITION, IT WILL ALSO CREATE MORE AND BETTER CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN RESIDENTS OF DISTRICTS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

ANY CITIZEN WHO WISHES TO MAKE KNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENT HIS VIEWS ON DISTRICT MATTERS IS WELCOME TO DO SO THROUGH ANY UNOFFICIAL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER. HE MAY ALSO WRITE TO THE CHAIRMAN OF HIS DISTRICT BOARD AT THE CORRESPONDING CITY DISTRICT OFFICE OR DISTRICT OFFICE.

MORE MARKETS FOR TUEN MUN
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THE FIRST FULLY-EQUIPPED NEW MARKET PROVIDED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR TUEN MUN RESIDENTS WAS OPENED TODAY (TUESDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE KWONG CHOI MARKET, THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JIMMY SWEETMAN, SAID PLANS WERE IN THE PIPELINE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MORE MARKETS IN THE FAST-DEVELOPING NEW TOWN.

TWO OTHER NEW MARKETS ARE ALREADY BEING BUILT IN THE DISTRICT, MR SWEETMAN SAID. THE FIRST ONE WOULD BE THE YAN OI MARKET AT SAN HUI WHILE THE OTHER, NEAR CHI LOK FA YUEN, PROVIDING A TOTAL OF 440 STALLS.

THERE ARE 84 STALLS IN ALL IN THE KWONG CHOI MARKET — 24 FOR MEAT, FISH AND POULTRY AND 60 MINI-STALLS FOR VEGETABLE AND HABERDASHERY.

A SPECIAL FEATURE OF THE MARKET IS THE PLEASANT ROOF-TOP GARDEN, HE SAID.

PARKING FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED, AS A TEMPORARY CAR PARK HAS BEEN FORMED ALONGSIDE THE MARKET WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE TUEN MUN PROJECT MANAGER.

ALTHOUGH NEW, THE KWONG CHOI MARKET HAS A LINK WITH THE PAST, AS THE STALL HOLDERS HAVE BEEN HAWKERS FOR MANY YEARS IN TUEN MUN SAN HUI.

+THIS MARKET WILL THEREFORE PLAY A SMALL PART IN CREATING A NEW COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN TUEN MUN,+ MR SWEETMAN SAID.

MR SWEETMAN ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE SAN HUI CLEARANCE WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE SOON.

TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS WERE IN HAND TO RESITE THE EXISTING MARKET AND HAWKER BAZAAR TENANTS, TOGETHER WITH A NUMBER OF THE MOST ELIGIBLE UNLICENSED STREET HAWKERS, SO THAT MARKETING FACILITIES FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT WOULD NOT BE DISRUPTED.

+FIRST, THE EXISTING TUEN MUN MARKET AND ITS EXTENSION SECTION ARE TO BE RETAINED,+ HE SAID.

AN ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY MARKET WILL BE PROVIDED IN FRONT OF THE MARKET TO ACCOMMODATE ELIGIBLE HAWKERS SELLING MARKET-TYPE COMMODITIES.

IN ADDITION, TWO TEMPORARY HAWKER BAZAARS WILL BE PROVIDED NEAR SAN HUI — ONE FOR RESITING THE PRESENT TUEN MUN HAWKER BAZAAR AND THE OTHER TO TAKE IN ELIGIBLE STREET HAWKERS.

- 15 -

TALKING ABOUT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL HAWKERS, HE SAID MORE STRINGENT LAW ENFORCEMENT WOULD SOONER OR LATER BE EXERCISED.

+WE MUST KEEP THE STREETS CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTION FOR PEOPLE TO GO ABOUT THEIR EVERYDAY BUSINESS AND TO PROVIDE A BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR SWEETMAN LATER CUT A RIBBON TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE MARKET. ALSO TAKING PART IN THE EVENT WERE THE DISTRICT OFFICER OF TUEN MUN, MR BILLY LAM, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR LAU WONG-FAT.

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TAI PO'S OLDEST PEOPLE TO ATTEND FEAST
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TWO OF THE OLDEST PEOPLE IN TAI PO - A MAN AGED 104 AND A WOMAN AGED 100 - WILL BE AMONG 730 PEOPLE ATTENDING A FEAST FOR THE ELDERLY TO BE HELD IN THE DISTRICT ON JANUARY 31, TO CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR.

THE MAN IS MR WONG KWOK-SAU, WHO LIVES IN KWONG FUK ROAD, AND THE WOMAN IS MADAM LIU YING, WHO LIVES IN SAN TONG TSUEN.

THE TAI PO LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE OVER 18 DAYS STARTING ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 22).

THE PROGRAMME HAS BEEN DRAWN UP BY AN ORGANISING COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NICKY LO.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE LION DANCES, FUN FAIRS, A CONCERT BY THE WANG KWONG CHINESE ORCHESTRA ON JANUARY 30, A FILM SHOW, A DISCO NIGHT, A FOLK SONG CONCERT, FOOTBALL MATCHES, ACROBATIC AND MAGIC SHOWS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE AN EXHIBITION OF TAI PO HISTORY AT THE RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE BETWEEN FEBRUARY 2 AND 8.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL ATTEND A GALA FUN DAY ON FEBRUARY 6 AT TAI PO SPORTSGROUND.

DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY, PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED TO WINNERS OF COUPLET WRITING, CLEAN BUILDING AND CLEAN HAWKERS STALLS COMPETITIONS.

A LANTERN DESIGN COMPETITION HAS ALSO BEEN HELD AND THE ENTRIES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY AT TAI PO SPORTSGROUND ON FEBRUARY 8.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1982

- 16 -

TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL OUTDOOR EVENTS
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THERE WILL BE 16 OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES DURING THE FOURTH TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL TO BE HELD FROM JANUARY 22 TO FEBRUARY 13.

A PERFORMANCE BY THE GURKHAS' BAND TOGETHER WITH LION AND UNICORN DANCES ON JANUARY 22 AT 7 PM AT TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL GARDEN WILL MARK THE OPENING OF THE ARTS FESTIVAL.

OTHER PERFORMANCES WILL INCLUDE A ROD PUPPET SHOW ON JANUARY 23 AT LAI YIU ESTATE OPEN SPACE, A CHINESE ORCHESTRAL CONCERT AT CHEUNG CHING ESTATE OPEN SPACE ON JANUARY 28 AND A BAND CONCERT AT SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND ON JANUARY 31 AT 3.30 PM.

THE KANDYAN DRUMMERS TROUPE FROM SRI LANKA WILL PERFORM ON FEBRUARY 3 AT SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND WHILE THE JAPAN FOLKLORIC ART DANCE TROUPE WILL GIVE A PERFORMANCE AT THE SAME VENUE ON FEBRUARY 6 AT 7.30 PM.

LOVERS OF PEKING OPERA CAN GO TO THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND ON FEBRUARY 4, AND THOSE WHO PREFER CANTONESE OPERA CAN GO TO THE CHEUNG SHAN ESTATE CAR PARK ON FEBRUARY 10, OR TO THE TAI WO HAU ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE THE FOLLOWING DAY.

A DJ SHOW PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH COMMERCIAL RADIO 11 WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 1 AT KWAI CHUNG PLAYGROUND AND AN ALL STAR SHOW WILL BE PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH COMMERCIAL RADIO 1 ON FEBRUARY 2 AT THE SAME VENUE.

TICKETS FOR THESE TWO SHOWS ARE AT \$5 EACH.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE A MAGIC AND ACROBATIC SHOW ON FEBRUARY 5 AT MA WAN PLAYGROUND AND A VARIETY SHOW AT TSING YI OLD MARKET PLAYGROUND ON FEBRUARY 9.

THE TSUEN WAN CULTURE AND RECREATION CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD A FOLK SONGS AND DANCE SHOW AT SHEK YAM COMMUNITY HALL ON FEBRUARY 6.

A PERFORMANCE OF CHINESE FOLK SONGS AND DANCE WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 12 AT KWAI FONG ESTATE PLAYGROUND NO. 4.

THE LAST OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE OF THE FESTIVAL, A FOLK DANCE GALA BY TSUEN WAN CULTURE AND RECREATION CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION AND YMCA, WILL BE HELD AT ORS INDOOR GAMES HALL ON FEBRUARY 13.

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL THE OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES WILL BEGIN AT 7.30 PM. ADMISSION WILL BE FREE.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR FIRE SAFETY ADVICE

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THE PUBLIC WERE TODAY (TUESDAY) ADVISED TO TAKE SPECIAL CARE AGAINST FIRE RISKS DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP SAID, +ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND COOKING STOVES WHICH WILL BE INTENSIVELY USED DURING THE FESTIVAL.

+JOSS STICKS, CANDLES AND WORSHIPPING ITEMS MUST BE HANDLED CAREFULLY, FOR A MERE SPARK CAN START A FIRE RESULTING IN LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY,+ HE ADDED.

IN ORDER TO MINIMISE THE POTENTIAL FIRE DANGERS, HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF OBSERVING THE FOLLOWING BASIC SAFETY RULES:

- * BEFORE LEAVING HOME, MAKE SURE ALL ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES ARE TURNED OFF.
- * COOKING FACILITIES IN USE MUST BE ATTENDED TO.
- * ENSURE THAT HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES ARE IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION AND AVOID OVERLOADING THE POWER POINTS.
- * NEVER STORE MORE THAN ONE CONTAINER OF FUEL AT ONE TIME AND KEEP IT WELL AWAY FROM ANY SOURCE OF HEAT.
- * DO NOT FILL A KEROSENE STOVE OR HEATER WHEN IT IS ALIGHT.
- * KEEP MATCHES AND LIGHTERS OUT OF CHILDREN'S REACH.
- * KEEP THE CORRIDORS AND STAIRCASES FREE FROM OBSTRUCTION.
- * BURN WORSHIPPING ITEMS IN METAL CONTAINERS AND KEEP THEM AWAY FROM ANY INFLAMMABLE MATERIAL.
- * PROVIDE VISITORS WITH ENOUGH ASHTRAYS AND BEFORE YOU EMPTY AN ASHTRAY, MAKE SURE ALL CIGARETTE BUTTS ARE EXTINGUISHED.

+DURING THE FESTIVAL, ATTENTION SHOULD ALSO BE PAID TO PREVENTING COUNTRYSIDE FIRES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE URGED PICNICKERS TO BRING ALONG PRE-COOKED FOOD WHENEVER POSSIBLE AND TO BARBECUE ONLY IN DESIGNATED AREAS. THEY SHOULD ENSURE THAT ALL FIRES ARE PROPERLY EXTINGUISHED BEFORE LEAVING.

THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT A FIRE BAN IN THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK AND THE TAI PO KAU NATURE RESERVE AREA INTRODUCED LAST MONTH IS STILL IN FORCE.

HE WARNED THAT THE PENALTIES FOR CAUSING A FIRE IN A COUNTRY PARK OR ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE ARE \$5 000 AND \$2 000 RESPECTIVELY.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED FARMERS WHO BURN OFF AGRICULTURAL WASTE AROUND THIS TIME OF THE YEAR NOT TO LIGHT A FIRE NEAR BUILDINGS AND WHEN THE HUMIDITY IS LOW AND WIND IS STRONG.

+IN CASE OF NEED, THEY ARE WELCOME TO APPROACH THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE,+ HE SAID.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1982

- 18 -

FEEDER BUS ROUTES FOR TSUEN WAN MTR EXTENSION
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THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, ANNOUNCED TODAY (JANUARY 19) THAT NEW FEEDER BUS ROUTES WILL BE INTRODUCED TO SERVE MAJOR HOUSING ESTATES IN TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG WHEN THE TSUEN WAN MTR EXTENSION BECOMES OPERATIONAL IN MAY THIS YEAR.

AT THE SAME TIME, YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN RESIDENTS WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE DIRECT BUS SERVICES TO URBAN KOWLOON.

THIS FOLLOWS RECOMMENDATIONS IN A REPORT PREPARED BY A JOINT GOVERNMENT/CONSULTANT STUDY TEAM SET UP TO ESTIMATE THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TRAVEL DEMAND PATTERN IN THE WESTERN CORRIDOR OF THE NEW TERRITORIES IN CONNECTION WITH NEW TSUEN WAN EXTENSION.

ACCORDING TO MRS JOAN LIM, A SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICER WHO HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE STUDY TEAM, THE PROPOSED FEEDER BUS SERVICES WOULD FIRST BE INTRODUCED FROM YUEN LONG AND MAJOR HOUSING ESTATES -- SUCH AS TAI HING, YAU OI AND EVENTUALLY BUTTERFLY ESTATE -- TO EITHER TSUEN WAN OR KWAI FONG STATION.

IN TSUEN WAN, INTERNAL BUS ROUTES WHICH CURRENTLY OPERATE FROM MAJOR HOUSING ESTATES TO THE TSUEN WAN FERRY CONCOURSE VIA LOCAL TOWN CENTRES WILL CONTINUE EVEN AFTER THE OPENING OF THE TSUEN WAN EXTENSION.

ADDITIONALLY LOCAL FEEDER BUS SERVICES TO MTR STATIONS HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR RESIDENTS LIVING IN ALLWAY GARDEN, TSUEN WAN CENTRE, SHEK WAI KOK AND CHEUNG SHAN ESTATES.

KWAI SHING RESIDENTS WILL ALSO HAVE A NEW FEEDER BUS ROUTE TO KWAI HING MTR STATION.

FEEDER BUSES WILL OPERATE FROM KWAI FONG STATION TO SHEK LEI, SHEK YAM AND LEI MUK SHU ESTATES IN THE NORTH, AND CHEUNG CHING AND CHEUNG HONG ESTATES ON TSING YI ISLAND IN THE SOUTH.

RESIDENTS IN LAI YIU AND CHO YIU ESTATES WILL HAVE A BUS SERVICE TO LAI KING MTR STATION.

APART FROM THESE FEEDER BUS SERVICES, EACH MAJOR HOUSING ESTATE IN TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN WILL CONTINUE TO BE SERVED BY DIRECT BUS ROUTES TO URBAN KOWLOON, AND WILL BE ABLE TO USE SUCH BUS ROUTES AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE MTR.

+IN ADDITION TO THE HIGH CAPACITY FEEDER BUS SERVICES, TWO NEW MAXICAB ROUTES HAVE BEEN PROPOSED TO SERVE THE TSUEN WAN EXTENSION,+ MRS LIM SAID.

/+A SHORT

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1982

- 19 -

+A SHORT ROUTE FROM TAI WO HAU THROUGH KWAI CHUNG ESTATE TO KWAI HING MTR STATION WILL BE INTRODUCED TOGETHER WITH A REGULAR FEEDER SERVICE FROM THE SOUTH OF THE TSING YI ISLAND TO KWAI FONG MTR STATION,+ SHE ADDED.

THE TSING YI ISLAND TO KWAI FONG STATION LINK, SHE SAID, WOULD SUPPLEMENT THE COACH SERVICES ALREADY PROVIDED BY FACTORY EMPLOYERS.

SHE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW TSUEN WAN LINE WILL PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH ADDITIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT CAPACITY AS WELL AS AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF TRAVELLING.

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TSUEN WAN TRAFFIC
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BOTH ON YIN STREET AND A SECTION OF TSUEN KING CIRCUIT IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE ROUTED ONE WAY WESTBOUND FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 21) FOR BUS OPERATION.

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