



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HONG KONG CRIME RATE COMPARATIVELY LOW  
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HONG KONG HAS A LOW CRIME RATE COMPARED WITH MANY OTHER MAJOR CITIES.

THIS WAS REVEALED IN THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE'S FOURTH SIX-MONTHLY REPORT, COVERING THE PERIOD BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1984 AND APRIL THIS YEAR. THE REPORT HAS JUST BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY):

+HONG KONG IS A CROWDED, DYNAMIC AND RELATIVELY WEALTHY SOCIETY, ESPECIALLY WHEN COMPARED TO ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS. THESE AND OTHER FACTORS ATTRACT CRIME WHICH BECAUSE OF THE CROWDED HIGH-RISE ENVIRONMENT IS OFTEN VERY DIFFICULT TO DETECT SUCCESSFULLY AND TO PREVENT.

+THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER REMAIN A VERY HIGH PRIORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

+WHILE NOBODY WOULD DENY THAT CRIME LEVELS ARE TOO HIGH THEY SHOULD NOT BE SENSATIONALISED OR EXAGGERATED= AS FAR AS BIG CITIES ARE CONCERNED, HONG KONG IS A RELATIVELY SAFE PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE.+

IT WAS ALSO NOTED IN THE NO. 4 REPORT THAT THE LEVEL OF OVERALL REPORTED CRIME WAS 2.9 PER CENT LESS IN 1984 THAN IN 1983, THE FIRST TIME THAT A DECREASE IN ANNUAL CRIME STATISTICS HAD BEEN RECORDED SINCE 1977.

OF PARTICULAR NOTE WAS THE DECREASE IN VIOLENT CRIME, PARTICULARLY ROBBERIES, AND IN THEFTS FROM VEHICLES AND THEFTS OF VEHICLES. BUT THERE WAS AN APPRECIABLE INCREASE IN BURGLARIES, ROUGHLY A QUARTER OF WHICH WERE IN RESPECT OF FLATS LEFT UNLOCKED. THE FIGHT CRIME PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN PLANNED FOR 1985/86 WILL CONCENTRATE IN PART ON PROTECTION AGAINST BURGLARIES.

APART FROM THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MEMBERSHIP OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE IS MADE UP OF FOUR UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, DR HO KAM-FAI, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MRS SOPHIA HO AND MR PETER C. WONG TOGETHER WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE SECRETARIES FOR SECURITY, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, HEALTH AND WELFARE, AND EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES.

THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEETS REGULARLY. MUCH WORK IS ALSO DONE THROUGH ITS SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS.

THE MAIN SUBJECTS COVERED BY THE COMMITTEE'S FOURTH REPORT INCLUDE:

/USE OF .....

USE OF FIREARMS IN CRIME

THE WORKING GROUP ON THE USE OF FIREARMS IN CRIME CONSIDERED FURTHER DRAFTS OF A BILL TO BAN THE POSSESSION OF A +PRESCRIBED CLASS OF IMITATION FIREARMS+ (HIGH QUALITY IMITATIONS OF GENUINE FIREARMS) WHICH CRIMINALS ARE STILL USING IN APPRECIABLE QUANTITIES.

THE WORKING GROUP ALSO CONSIDERED A PROPOSAL FOR TIGHTER CONTROLS OVER THE AVAILABILITY OF CARTRIDGES DESIGNED FOR USE IN INDUSTRIAL FIXING TOOLS, AND A PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE LICENSING FOR THE POSSESSION OF CROSSBOWS.

IN RESPECT OF FIXING TOOL CARTRIDGES, THE WORKING GROUP CONSIDERED THAT THE VOLUME OF ACTIVITY INVOLVED COULD MAKE TIGHTER CONTROLS DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT. IT WILL CONSIDER ANY FURTHER PROPOSALS FOR CONTROLLING ITS USE.

FOR THE CROSSBOW, THE WORKING GROUP CONCLUDED THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF MISUSE TO SUPPORT CHANGES TO THE LEGISLATION AT THE PRESENT TIME.

ROBBERIES IN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS

AS THE POOR STANDARD OF WATCHMEN DOES LITTLE TO DISCOURAGE CRIME IN MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS, THE WORKING GROUP ON ROBBERIES IN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS CONSIDERED AMENDMENTS TO THE WATCHMEN ORDINANCE, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING A BASIC TRAINING COURSE FOR WATCHMEN.

IT IS HOPED AMENDMENTS TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF WATCHMEN WILL BE INTRODUCED DURING THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE WORKING GROUP FELT THAT EMPLOYERS SHOULD INSIST ON HIGHER STANDARDS AND PAY BETTER WAGES.

AS THE GOVERNMENT IS A MAJOR EMPLOYER OF WATCHMEN (SOME 3 000 WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT), ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS EMPLOYING WATCHMEN SHOULD BE ADVISED TO DRAW UP CONTRACTS CAREFULLY SO AS TO ENSURE THAT CONTRACTORS EMPLOY WATCHMEN OF A SUITABLE STANDARD AND ENFORCE THE CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACTS. THE LOWEST TENDERS FOR SUCH CONTRACTS SHOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED IF IT IS CLEAR FROM THE LEVEL OF THE TENDER THAT THE WATCHMEN ARE TO BE PAID UNREASONABLY LOW WAGES.

VICE-ASSOCIATED ESTABLISHMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCE

THE WORKING GROUP ON VICE-ASSOCIATED ESTABLISHMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCE ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO EASE THE PROBLEM OF NUISANCE CAUSED BY VICE-ESTABLISHMENTS IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS BY A SCHEME INVOLVING THE USE OF CLOSURE ORDERS.

THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAD CONSULTED THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES WHICH ALL SUPPORTED THE PROPOSED SCHEME. THE CNTA IS NOW REFINING THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND CONSIDERING HOW TO ADMINISTER THE PROPOSED SCHEME.

IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSING THIS SCHEME, THE IDEA OF SETTING UP +RED-LIGHT+ DISTRICTS WAS ALSO DEBATED. THE VIEWS FOR AND AGAINST THIS IDEA WAS CONSIDERED AND CONCLUDED IMPRACTICAL.

SECURITY OF GOLDSMITH AND JEWELLERY  
SHOPS, BANKS AND GOLD WORKSHOPS

THE GOLDSMITH ASSOCIATIONS ARE WORKING WITH THE WORKING GROUP ON SECURITY OF GOLDSMITH AND JEWELLERY SHOPS TO ENCOURAGE SHOPS WITH INADEQUATE SECURITY MEASURES TO UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS.

A PILOT SCHEME WAS CARRIED OUT WHEREBY TWENTY SHOPS WERE SELECTED AND VISITED IN OCTOBER 1984 AND GIVEN ADVICE ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE SECURITY OF THEIR PREMISES. THE WORKING GROUP RE-VISITED THESE SHOPS IN MARCH 1985 AND FOUND THAT ONLY THREE OUT OF THE 78 SUGGESTED SECURITY MEASURES HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

THE WORKING GROUP CONCLUDED THAT THIS SCHEME WAS NOT EFFECTIVE AND SHOULD BE ABANDONED. BUT A CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE TRADE ASSOCIATIONS WAS OF SOME VALUE AND THE WORKING GROUP WOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THEM IN ORDER TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE ON SHOPS TO INTRODUCE ADEQUATE SECURITY MEASURES THROUGH THE ASSOCIATIONS.

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED NOT TO PURSUE LEGISLATION ON THE REGISTRATION OF GOLD TRANSACTIONS IN SHOPS AS TO DO SO WOULD HAVE NO REAL EFFECT.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNRULY AND  
DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS CONTINUED TO MONITOR THE INCIDENCE OF UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR OF STUDENTS. ITS WORK INCLUDED THE REFERRAL OF CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEM FOR REMEDIAL TREATMENT, THE ORGANISATION OF SEMINARS FOR SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS TO COMBAT TRIAD INFLUENCES OR GANG ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS AND CURRICULA FOR THE PROMOTION OF MORAL EDUCATION.

FUTURE ACTION WILL INCLUDE THE 1984/85 SURVEY OF DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR, STUDY OF THE REPORT ON REMEDIAL TEACHING, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS SCHEME AS FUNDS PERMIT AND SEMINARS FOR TEACHERS ON UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR.

/WORKING GROUP .....

WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH

THE WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH HAS STEPPED UP ITS EFFORTS THIS YEAR - INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE YOUTH. IT HAS IDENTIFIED THE MANY EXISTING LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH YOUNG OFFENDERS AND OTHER YOUNG PERSONS REQUIRING CARE AND PROTECTION. IT HAS SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS IN INDIVIDUAL AREAS, IN PARTICULAR -

- (A) THE COMPILING OF STATISTICS TO HELP TO ASSESS HOW EFFECTIVE EACH ARRANGEMENT IS;
- (B) PROCEDURES FOR ADMITTING GIRLS INTO HOMES;
- (C) EDUCATION FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PERSONS ON REMAND; AND
- (D) RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON THE AGE CRITERIA GOVERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO YOUNG OFFENDER PROGRAMMES.

THE WORKING GROUP IS FURTHER ASSESSING WHETHER (AND IF SO HOW) THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE ENHANCED AND BETTER CO-ORDINATED, IN PARTICULAR BY ADAPTING THE CONCEPTS OF THE CALIFORNIA YOUTH AUTHORITY TO HONG KONG'S NEEDS.

WORKING GROUP ON GANGS

THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME IS A LONG AND HARD ONE, AND NO FAST RESULTS ARE EXPECTED. THE WORKING GROUP ON GANGS DISCUSSED WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ACTIVITIES UNDER THEIR CONTROL WHERE GANGS MAY BE OPERATING WITH A VIEW TO MAKING LIFE FOR THE GANGS MORE DIFFICULT BY TIGHTENING THE CONTROLS AND CHANGING THE PROCEDURES.

COMMERCIAL CRIME

AS A RESULT OF ENACTMENT OF THE EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1984 TO ENABLE GATHERING OF EVIDENCE FROM PERSONS RESIDING OUTSIDE HONG KONG AND TO PERMIT ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH EVIDENCE IN COMMERCIAL CRIME CASES IN HONG KONG COURTS, THE COMMERCIAL CRIME UNIT HAS BEEN ABLE TO TAKE A NUMBER OF MAJOR PROSECUTIONS, WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE FOUNDERED.

AMONG OTHER ISSUES, THE STANDING LIAISON COMMITTEE ON COMMERCIAL CRIME IS ALSO CONSIDERING COMPUTER CRIME; FREEZING OF PROCEEDS OF CRIME; RELAXATION OF SECRECY PROVISIONS IN THE SECURITIES AND THE COMMODITIES TRADING ORDINANCE; JURISDICTION TO PROSECUTE CRIME WHERE ANY MATERIAL ELEMENT IS COMMITTED IN HONG KONG; INERTIA SELLING; AND THE PENALTY FOR CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD.

RESEARCH

THE RESEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE STUDIED THE INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME OF RECENT IMMIGRANTS AND YOUTH OFFENDERS. IT ALSO PROPOSED SETTING UP A STANDARDISED LAW AND ORDER STATISTICS SYSTEM TO PROVIDE COMPATIBLE STATISTICS FOR THE USE OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

DURING THE PERIOD, MEMBERS OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES OF THE 19 DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES AND TO VISIT THE DFCCS ON A ROSTER BASIS.

DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES MET REGULARLY TO KEEP UNDER REVIEW THE STATE OF CRIME AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THEIR DISTRICTS, THEREBY ASSISTING THE POLICE AND CO-ORDINATING DISTRICT EFFORTS TO COMBAT AND TO PREVENT CRIME. A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED INCLUDING RE-ORGANISATION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNIT (NPU) SCHEME, CONTROL OF VICE ESTABLISHMENTS AND CONTROL OF OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS.

+DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT PART IN PROMOTING THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND IN ENCOURAGING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISTRICT LEVEL,+ SAID SIR PHILIP.

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AU-YEUNG TO SUCCEED LADD

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT MR VICTOR LADD WILL BE RETIRING FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE IN AUGUST THIS YEAR. MR LADD HAS BEEN COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE SINCE SEPTEMBER 1979 AND WILL ON RETIREMENT HAVE COMPLETED 28 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE.

MR LADD'S SUCCESSOR AS COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE WILL BE MR ANTHONY AU-YEUNG FU, WHO IS CURRENTLY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THE ACTING APPOINTMENT OF MR OSMAN GHAFUR AS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, IN SUCCESSION TO MR AU-YEUNG. MR GHAFUR IS CURRENTLY AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE.

FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THESE OFFICERS :

/MR VICTOR .....

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MR VICTOR ALFRED LADD, CBE, JP

AGED 57. MR LADD JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE IN AUGUST 1957 AS AN ASSESSOR IN THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT. HE FIRST BECAME ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE IN FEBRUARY 1971, AND WAS FURTHER PROMOTED TO DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE IN JANUARY 1975 AND TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE IN SEPTEMBER 1979. MR LADD HAS SERVED IN THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND WILL HAVE COMPLETED 28 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ON HIS RETIREMENT IN AUGUST THIS YEAR.

MR ANTHONY AU-YEUNG FU, JP

AGED 50. MR AU-YEUNG JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE IN AUGUST 1965 AS AN ASSESSOR IN THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, AND HAS BEEN SERVING IN THAT DEPARTMENT FOR THE PAST 19 YEARS. HE WAS PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE IN OCTOBER 1976 AND TO HIS PRESENT SUBSTANTIVE RANK OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE IN SEPTEMBER 1979. MR AU-YEUNG HAS ACTED AS COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE ON MANY PREVIOUS OCCASIONS.

MR OSMAN GHAFUR, JP

AGED 48. MR GHAFUR JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE IN APRIL 1955 AS A CLERK. HE LATER JOINED THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT IN MARCH 1963 AS AN ASSISTANT ASSESSOR. HE WAS PROMOTED TO ASSESSOR IN JUNE 1964, TO SENIOR ASSESSOR IN APRIL 1971, TO CHIEF ASSESSOR IN OCTOBER 1976 AND TO HIS PRESENT SUBSTANTIVE RANK OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE IN SEPTEMBER 1979. HE HAS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS ACTED AS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE.

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GOVERNMENT GEARED TO MEET TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVANCES  
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GOVERNMENT HAS COMPLETED A REVIEW OF THE POLICIES ADOPTED TO ADMINISTER RADIO-COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG AND MANY CHANGES ARE ABOUT TO BE IMPLEMENTED, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR H.G. ARDLEY, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE RAPID INCREASE IN THE DEMAND FOR SUCH SERVICES, COUPLED WITH RAPID ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY, HAD NECESSITATED A REVIEW OF THE POLICIES SO AS TO ENSURE THEIR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT WHICH WAS VITAL TO THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

/+A MOST .....

+A MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IS THAT ALL FORMS OF RADIO SYSTEMS OR SERVICES NECESSITATE THE USE OF THE RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM WHICH IS A LIMITED RESOURCE AND HAS TO BE REGARDED AS A FORM OF PUBLIC ASSET.

+ACCORDINGLY, THERE IS A NEED FOR GOVERNMENT TO PRECLUDE THE INEFFICIENT USE OR MISUSE OF THIS SCARE NATURAL RESOURCE,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF PENINSULA, MR ARDLEY SAID THAT FROM THE USAGE POINT OF VIEW, THERE HAD BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE DEMAND FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN THE PAST DECADE.

WHILE THE NUMBER OF TELEPHONES HAD INCREASED FROM ABOUT A MILLION IN 1974 TO ABOUT TWO MILLION NOW, THE AMOUNT OF RADIO-COMMUNICATIONS APPARATUS HAD INCREASED MANY FOLD IN THE SAME PERIOD: LICENSED PRIVATE MOBILE RADIO STATIONS HAD INCREASED FROM ABOUT 6 000 IN 1974 TO OVER 35 000 TODAY AND RADIO PAGERS FROM 7 000 TO OVER 210 000 (AN INCREASE OF OVER 3 000 PER CENT).

+AMONG OTHER CHANGES, WE INTEND TO AUTHORISE A VARIETY OF PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TO MEET THE VARIOUS COMMUNICATION NEEDS OF HONG KONG. ONE SUCH SERVICE IS A ONE-WAY DATA MESSAGE SERVICE,+ MR ARDLEY SAID.

THIS WAS A TYPE OF SERVICE SIMILAR TO THE RADIO PAGING SERVICE. SUBSCRIBERS TO IT WOULD CARRY A RECEIVER WHICH WAS SIMILAR BUT SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN ORDINARY PAGERS AND COULD STORE AND DISPLAY SEQUENTIALLY A MESSAGE OF ABOUT AN A4 SIZE PAGE OF TEXT.

THE TEXT COULD EVEN BE PRINTED OUT WHEN ATTACHED TO A PRINTER BUT THAT WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE PORTABLE.

THERE WERE A NUMBER OF OBVIOUS USES OF THE SERVICE SUCH AS THE DESPATCH AND DISPLAY OF UP-TO-THE-MINUTE FINANCIAL INFORMATION, PERSONAL MESSAGES AND COMPANY INTERNAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS.

+ANOTHER NEW SERVICE WILL BE A COMMUNITY REPEATER SERVICE. THIS WILL SERVE THOSE BUSINESS USERS WHO WANT TO MAKE USE OF TWO-WAY RADIO SYSTEMS.

+THE PROVIDER OF THE SERVICE WILL INSTALL COMMUNITY REPEATERS AT VANTAGE POINTS TO PROVIDE GOOD COVERAGE IN MOST IF NOT THE ENTIRE TERRITORY AND OFFER RADIO 'CONNECTIONS' TO HIS SUBSCRIBERS.+

MR ARDLEY SAID THAT A GAZETTE NOTICE WOULD BE PUBLISHED SOON TO INVITE APPLICATIONS FROM PARTIES INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING THESE TWO SERVICES.

TURNING TO THE POSTAL SIDE OF HIS DEPARTMENT, MR ARDLEY SAID THE PRESENT SORTING SYSTEM IN HONG KONG OPERATED ON A WHOLLY MANUAL BASIS ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME MECHANISED AIDS IN THE FORM OF CONVEYORS TO TRANSPORT BULK MAIL BETWEEN SOME PROCESSING POINTS.

+OUR VOLUME OF MAIL INCREASES AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF ABOUT 10 PER CENT A YEAR AND, ACCORDINGLY, OUR STAFFING AND ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SORTING CONTINUALLY INCREASE,+ HE SAID.

IN 1974-75, STAFF COSTS REPRESENTED 35 PER CENT OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE AND THIS FIGURE HAD RISEN TO TODAY'S 44 PER CENT.

+THUS THE COST PROPORTION CONTINUES TO GROW IN RELATION TO OTHER FORMS OF EXPENDITURE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO WHILE A WHOLLY MANUAL SORTING SYSTEM IS RETAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT,+ HE ADDED.

MR ARDLEY WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT IF A MANUAL SORTING SYSTEM WAS RETAINED, THE STANDARD OF LETTER MAIL SERVICE PRESENTLY ENJOYED IN HONG KONG MIGHT DECLINE.

HE REVEALED THAT THE POST OFFICE HAD COMMISSIONED THE BRITISH POSTAL CONSULTANCY SERVICE LAST YEAR TO ADVISE ON THE NEED, VIABILITY AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF INTRODUCING ELECTRONIC LETTER SORTING IN HONG KONG.

A LETTER MECHANISATION SYSTEM USING OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION (OCR) FACILITIES HAS BEEN PROPOSED. THE EQUIPMENT WOULD READ ADDRESSES TYPED OR MACHINE PRINTED IN ROMAN TYPE, WHICH REPRESENTED ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LETTER MAIL TRAFFIC.

+UNDER THIS SYSTEM, LETTERS WOULD BE FED INTO THE OCR EQUIPMENT WHICH WOULD ELECTRONICALLY READ THE LAST FOUR LINES OF THE ADDRESS. A CODE OF THAT ADDRESS WOULD THEN BE PRINTED ON THE ENVELOPE IN LUMINESCENT INK SO THAT ALL SUBSEQUENT SORTING PROCESSES COULD BE DONE AUTOMATICALLY,+ MR ARDLEY SAID.

LETTERS REJECTED BY THE OCR SORTING EQUIPMENT BECAUSE THE ADDRESS WAS UNREADABLE WOULD BE DIVERTED TO CODING DESKS WHERE OPERATORS WOULD READ THE ADDRESSES AND TYPE THE RELEVANT ADDRESS CODE ON THE ENVELOPES.

MR ARDLEY SAID THAT IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT THE TOTAL COST OF THE EQUIPMENT WOULD BE ABOUT \$100 MILLION AND THAT SAVINGS COULD BE EXPECTED OF \$14 MILLION IN 1987-88, RISING TO \$20 MILLION IN 1993-94.

+WE ARE ABOUT TO SEEK FINANCIAL APPROVAL FOR THIS PROJECT AND, IF APPROVAL IS GRANTED IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION DATE WOULD BE 1987,+ HE ADDED.

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URBAN COUNCIL TO CONSULT GOVERNOR ON MUSEUM

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THE URBAN COUNCIL TODAY AGREED THAT THE GOVERNOR SHOULD BE CONSULTED ON THE COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS CONCERNING A MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

+IT IS HOPED THAT A MEETING CAN BE ARRANGED SOON AFTER SIR EDWARD YOUDE RETURNS FROM HIS PRESENT VISIT TO LONDON,+ SAID A COUNCIL SPOKESMAN.

AT TODAY'S MEETING OF THE COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEE, MEMBERS AGREED UNANIMOUSLY THAT SUCH A MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR SHOULD BE THE COUNCIL'S NEXT STEP.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRMAN, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

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APPOINTMENTS TO BE CONFIRMED

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A BILL SEEKING TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF AN URBAN COUNCILLOR AND FOUR DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE THIS FRIDAY AND INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR ALL THREE READINGS NEXT WEDNESDAY (JUNE 12).

THEY ARE URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR MARVIN CHEUNG KIN-TUNG= DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER FOR KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI, MR JAMES TIEN PEI-CHUN= MEMBER FOR SAI KUNG, MR JOSEPH KONG HON-HING, AND MEMBERS FOR SHA TIN, MR LEE KWONG AND MR JUSTEIN C. WONG.

AT THE TIME THE FIVE MEMBERS WERE APPOINTED, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE ELIGIBLE TO BE REGISTERED AS ELECTORS, THEY WERE NOT SO REGISTERED UNDER THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE. TO BE REGISTERED IS A REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT UNDER THE URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE AND DISTRICT BOARDS ORDINANCE.

THE PUBLIC BODIES (CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTED MEMBERS) (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) BILL 1985 TO BE PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY SEEKS TO CONFIRM THEIR APPOINTMENT UNTIL JANUARY 1986, TO ENABLE THESE FIVE PERSONS TO CONTINUE TO ACT AS MEMBERS OF THE BODIES TO WHICH THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED THEM. BY JANUARY 1986 THEY WILL HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REGISTER AND THUS BE LISTED IN THE FINAL ELECTORAL ROLL.

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COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS PLAY VITAL SCHOOL ROLE  
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TWO GROUPS OF STUDENTS WHO SCORED TOP MARKS IN THE 1985 COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS PROJECT COMPETITION WERE AWARDED CASH PRIZES AT A PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE TWO FIRST PRIZES WENT TO STUDENTS OF C.C.C. ROTARY PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL AND CARITAS ST. FRANCIS PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL REPRESENTING GROUP A AND GROUP B IN THE CONTEST.

THE WINNERS ARE AMONG 150 STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED THEIR AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES OF MERIT FOR THEIR HIGH STANDARD OF WORK IN THE COMPETITION, WHICH WAS ORGANISED BY THE CHINESE GOLD AND SILVER EXCHANGE SOCIETY AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY AT THE EXCELSIOR HOTEL, THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), DR KONG YUN-FUN, SAID THE COMPETITION WHICH WAS THE THIRD IN THE SERIES AIMED AT AROUSING THE INTEREST OF SECONDARY STUDENTS IN VARIOUS COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES.

+THIS COMPETITION ALSO EMPHASISES AND ENCOURAGES A MORE LIVELY APPROACH IN THE TEACHING OF COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS,+ HE SAID.

+THE PROJECT METHOD REQUIRES STUDENTS TO INVESTIGATE AND SOLVE PROBLEMS AND THE PROCESS CAN CREATE INTEREST, CLARIFY CONTENT AND SPEED UP LEARNING.+

+AS A RESULT, IT CAN UPGRADE STUDENTS TO NEW LEVELS OF UNDERSTANDING AND SKILL AND CAN PROVIDE A LABORATORY WHERE PERFORMANCE CAN BE EVALUATED,+ HE SAID.

RECALLING THE 1978 WHITE PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION IN WHICH IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT SCHOOLS INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE PRACTICAL OR TECHNICAL SUBJECT IN FORM 4 AND 5 CURRICULUM, DR KONG SAID COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS WERE PLAYING AN IMPORTANT PART.

THE AIM OF INCLUDING COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS AT FORM 4 AND 5 LEVELS WAS TO ALLOW SOME STUDENTS AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW A COURSE WHICH WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY PREPARE THEM FOR WORK, HE ADDED.

+THROUGH THE INCLUSION OF THESE SUBJECTS, STUDENTS CONTINUE THEIR GENERAL EDUCATION AND AT THE SAME TIME RECEIVE SOME SORT OF A GENERAL PREPARATION FOR LIFE AS WELL AS SPECIFIC TRAINING FOR COMMERCE.+

+IT ALSO PROVIDES THEM WITH SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THE HONG KONG COMMERCIAL WORLD AND THUS HELP THEM TO BECOME MORE USEFUL MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY,+ HE CONTINUED.

/+IN ADDITION, .....

+IN ADDITION, MANY STUDENTS WHO PREFER TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES, FEEL THE NEED TO FOLLOW A HEAVIER BIAS ON COMMERCIAL FIELD IN THE SIXTH FORMS LEADING TO THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AS THEY BEGIN TO APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT DEGREES AND THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN ACCOUNTING, BANKING, INSURANCE, MARKETING AND BUSINESS STUDIES,+ HE CONCLUDED.

WINNING PROJECTS IN THE COMPETITION WILL BE ON DISPLAY IN THE COLLEGE HALL OF THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE BETWEEN JULY 1 AND 6.

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### SPORTS DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR YOUTHS LAUNCHED \* \* \* \* \*

A TERRITORY-WIDE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, OFFERING BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMISING YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIALS AND ADVANCE IN VARIOUS SPORTS, HAS BEEN LAUNCHED.

THE SCHEME HAS BEEN MAPPED OUT ON A LONG-TERM BASIS BY THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE DIVISION OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WITH A COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME LEADING UP TO MARCH 1986.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BRANCH SAID THAT ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT'S PROMOTIONAL EFFORT IN SPORTS HAD IDENTIFIED SOME PROMISING ATHLETES IN THE PAST BUT THE PERFORMANCE OF SUCH REPRESENTATIVES AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS LEFT MUCH TO BE DESIRED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE MAIN REASON WAS THAT SO FAR ONLY A FEW SPORTS HAD COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND WERE NOT MAPPED OUT ON A LONG-TERM BASIS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT A SYSTEM HAS TO BE ESTABLISHED TO CHANNEL THE TALENTED AT THE GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL THROUGH THE HIERARCHY OF A +SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PYRAMID+.

BASICALLY, THE +PYRAMID+ COMPRISES INTRODUCTORY TRAINING, BEGINNERS TRAINING, ELEMENTARY TRAINING, INTERMEDIATE TRAINING AND COMPETITIONS WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO IDENTIFYING PROMISING ATHLETES.

AND THE TALENTED AND BETTER SPORTSMEN AND SPORTSWOMEN WITH PROVEN POTENTIAL AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL WILL BE REFERRED TO THE NATIONAL SQUAD FOR ADVANCED TRAINING, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE ADVANCED LEVEL OF TRAINING WOULD ALSO SERVE AS THE NURTURING GROUND FOR BUDDING YOUNG SPORTSMEN AND SPORTSWOMEN WHO WOULD ONE DAY BECOME MEMBERS OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE NATIONAL SQUAD, HE ADDED.

THE TRAINING PROGRAMME SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR YOUTHS ALL OVER THE TERRITORY WILL INCLUDE POPULAR SPORTS SUCH AS FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, SWIMMING, DIVING, CANOEING, ROWING, SAILING, ORIENTEERING, TENNIS, BADMINTON AND OTHERS.

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### PLASTICS INDUSTRY MANPOWER DATA TO BE UPDATED

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THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WILL BE CONDUCTING A MANPOWER SURVEY OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY FROM JUNE 14 TO 26.

ORGANISATIONS SELECTED AT RANDOM WILL RECEIVE QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY LETTERS ASKING THEM TO SUPPLY MANPOWER INFORMATION SUCH AS THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, VACANCIES AND INFORMATION RELATED TO MANPOWER TRAINING.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD, MR DENNIS TING, URGED EMPLOYERS TO COOPERATE AND PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION BECAUSE THE SURVEY IS NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT IN FORMULATING MEANINGFUL TRAINING PLANS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INDUSTRY IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

TOY MANUFACTURING, WHICH IS STILL THE LARGEST SECTOR OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY, CREATED A SALES RECORD IN 1984 WITH EXPORTS REACHING HK\$11.5 BILLION, AN INCREASE OF 30 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1983.

MR TING STRESSED THAT ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SKILLED MANPOWER IS VERY IMPORTANT TO SUSTAIN THE GROWTH OF THE INDUSTRY AND FOR IT TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE IN THE WORLD MARKET.

HE ASSURED THAT THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WILL BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENT.

SURVEY INTERVIEWERS FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS TO ASSIST IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES. ENQUIRIES COULD ALSO BE MADE AT THE MANPOWER STATISTICS SECTION AT 5-454002 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

### BOARD MEMBERS SCRUTINISE UC PROJECTS

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MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD TODAY SHOWED KEEN INTEREST IN THE VARIOUS CAPITAL AND MINOR WORKS PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE DISTRICT BY THE URBAN COUNCIL OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

IN ALL, THERE ARE 33 CAPITAL WORKS AND 51 MINOR WORKS PROJECTS IN THE COUNCIL'S PLANNING PIPELINE FOR THE DISTRICT, OF WHICH SOME 55 PER CENT ARE RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES.

/THE MULTI-MILLION .....

THE MULTI-MILLION PROGRAMME, INCLUDING FOUR UNDER CONSTRUCTION, COVERS A VERY WIDE FIELD INCLUDING THE TERRITORY'S FIRST BOATING PARK AT WONG NAI CHUNG GAP ROAD, A CYCLING PARK, A SPORTS CENTRE, AN INDOOR GAMES HALL, AN OPEN-AIR AMPHI-THEATRE, PARKS, SQUASH COURTS, BASKETBALL COURTS, MINI-SOCCER PITCHES, A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, REST GARDENS, SITTING-OUT AREAS, BEACH BUILDINGS, A PICNIC AREA, MARKET COMPLEXES, A COOKED-FOOD CENTRE, REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS AND TOILET FACILITIES.

THE PROPOSED REFUSE COLLECTION POINT (RCP) AT ABERDEEN EMERGED AS THE FOCAL POINT OF DISCUSSION. SEVERAL MEMBERS HOPED THAT ANOTHER SITE WOULD BE ALLOCATED FOR THE PROJECT BECAUSE THE PROPOSED SITE, WHICH IS NEAR A PRIMARY SCHOOL, MIGHT CAUSE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE PROBLEMS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN.

URBAN COUNCILLOR MR WALTER SULKE, WHO IS AN EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE BOARD, STRESSED THAT RCPS WITH MODERN DESIGN WOULD CAUSE THE LEAST HYGIENE PROBLEM.

THE STAFF OFFICER (PLANNING) OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR Y.L. NG WHO PRESENTED THE URBAN COUNCIL'S WORKS PROGRAMME TO THE BOARD, POINTED OUT THAT THE PROPOSED RCP WOULD BEAUTIFY THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENT AND WOULD NOT BE VISIBLE TO SCHOOL CHILDREN BECAUSE IT WOULD BE DECORATED WITH GREENERY. HE EMPHASISED, HOWEVER, THAT BOARD MEMBERS' SUGGESTIONS FOR A MORE SUITABLE SITE WOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

OTHER PROJECTS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH BY BOARD MEMBERS INCLUDED A SOCCER PITCH AND TWO BASKETBALL COURTS AT THE ABERDEEN WATERFRONT, THE COOKED-FOOD CENTRE, THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AT NAM LONG SHAN ROAD, AND THE WELFARE ROAD PARK.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR JASPER LAM, SAID BEFORE THE MEETING THAT THE URBAN COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION PROGRAMME WOULD HELP STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS. HE WELCOMED THE MOVE TO INCLUDE THE MINOR WORKS PROJECTS IN THE CONSULTATION PROGRAMME WHICH HE SAID WOULD PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE OF THE COUNCIL'S WORKS PROJECTS FOR VARIOUS DISTRICTS.

+I HOPE THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD IN FUTURE INCLUDE THOSE PROJECTS WHICH ARE PLANNED BEYOND THE NEXT FIVE YEARS IN THE CONSULTATION PROGRAMME TO ENABLE BOARD MEMBERS TO PUT FORWARD THEIR VIEWS AT THE VERY INITIAL STAGE,+ HE ADDED.

THE SOUTHERN DB WAS THE SIXTH BOARD CONSULTED THIS YEAR BY THE URBAN COUNCIL ON ITS FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME. THE OTHER FIVE ARE THE CENTRAL/WESTERN, KWUN TONG, WONG TAI SIN, WAN CHAI AND YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARDS.

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OPEN MEETINGS FOR LIBRARIES SELECT COMMITTEE  
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FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE LIBRARIES SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN PUBLIC.

THIS WAS AGREED AT TODAY'S MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE URBAN COUNCIL.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LIBRARIES SELECT COMMITTEE, WHICH IS CHAIRED BY MR JOSEPH CHAN, WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 25.

COMMENTING ON THE DECISION TO OPEN UP THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS, A COUNCIL SPOKESMAN SAID: +THIS IS PART OF THE COUNCIL'S EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS OF PUTTING THE PUBLIC MORE FULLY IN THE PICTURE CONCERNING THE COUNCIL'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES.

+ALREADY THE MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IS HELD UNDER A NEW FORMAT WHEREBY MUCH OF THE BUSINESS FORMERLY DISCUSSED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE IS NOW DEBATED AND DECIDED UPON IN PUBLIC.+

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ACTIVITY APPROACH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON DISPLAY  
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A DISPLAY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES SUITABLE FOR USE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ADOPTING THE ACTIVITY APPROACH WILL BE HELD AT NINE REGIONAL CENTRES BETWEEN TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AND JUNE 7 (FRIDAY).

THE 1985 ACTIVITY APPROACH EXHIBITION, PREPARED BY 133 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS, WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 11 AM TO 5 PM TOMORROW AND FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY.

THE EXHIBITION IS AIMED AT PROVIDING SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS WITH INFORMATION AND MATERIALS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIVITY APPROACH AND PROMOTING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE APPROACH BY THE PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY THE PARENTS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

NOT ONLY WILL INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIVITY APPROACH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS BE ON DISPLAY AT THE CENTRES BUT ALSO SOURCE MATERIAL AND SELECTED WORK BY STUDENTS.

/IN ADDITION, .....

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IN ADDITION, THE ACTIVITY APPROACH CLASSES IN SESSION AT THE CENTRES WILL BE OPEN TO VISITORS AND VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE ACTIVITY APPROACH INCLUDING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, GROUP TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES CAN BE OBSERVED.

THE NINE CENTRES ARE THE ST. STEPHEN'S GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOL AND KIANGSU AND CHEKIANG PRIMARY SCHOOL ON HONG KONG ISLAND= TUNG KUN DISTRICT SOCIETY FONG SHU CHUEN SCHOOL, FUK WING STREET GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, SHENG HUNG HUI KEI TAK PRIMARY SCHOOL AND SHENG KUNG HUI KEI HIN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN KOWLOON= AND LOK SIN TONG LAU SAI YAN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN KWAI CHUNG, CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL IN YUEN LONG AND THE NT WOMEN AND JUVENILE WELFARE ASSOCIATION LEUNG SING TAK PRIMARY SCHOOL IN TAI PO IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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#### INDOOR GAMES HALLS BEING BUILT

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WORK HAS STARTED ON TWO INDOOR GAMES HALLS AT WAN CHAI AND MONG KOK FOLLOWING THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACTS BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE WAN CHAI INDOOR GAMES HALL AT HARBOUR ROAD, COSTING \$19.9 MILLION, WILL BE A THREE-STORY BUILDING COMPRISING EIGHT GLASS-BACKED SQUASH COURTS, TWO BASKETBALL COURTS WHICH CAN ALSO BE USED FOR BADMINTON AND VOLLEYBALL, A NUMBER OF GAMES ROOMS, OFFICES, CONFERENCE ROOMS, CHANGING ROOMS AND STOREROOMS.

THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE MONG KOK INDOOR GAMES HALL, LOCATED AT BOUNDARY STREET, WILL HAVE A BASKETBALL-CUM-BADMINTON COURT, FOUR SQUASH COURTS WITH VIEWING GALLERY, CHANGING ROOMS AND A RECEPTION AREA AND LOBBY.

WORK ON THE \$4 MILLION PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED IN 10 MONTHS.

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#### OPTOMETRIC PRACTICE SURVEY TO BE LAUNCHED

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS TO LAUNCH A FORMAL SURVEY ON OPTOMETRICAL PRACTICES IN HONG KONG ON JUNE 6.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (TUESDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY IS TO ASSESS THE GENERAL SITUATION OF THE LOCAL OPTOMETRY PROFESSION, ITS PATTERN OF PRACTICE AND THE TYPES OF PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN THE FIELD.

/IT WILL .....

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IT WILL ALSO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO ASCERTAIN A NUMBER OF PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF OPTOMETRICAL PRACTITIONERS.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE SENDING OUT EXPLANATORY LETTERS AND QUESTIONNAIRES TO ALL OPTICAL SHOPS AND PRACTITIONERS IN THE TERRITORY.

+AS THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE USED TO GAIN A DEEPER INSIGHT INTO THE LATEST SITUATION OF THE TRADE, OPTICAL SHOPS AND PRACTITIONERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO CO-OPERATE BY COMPLETING THE FORMS ACCURATELY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED WILL BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT SOME 500 OPTICAL SHOPS EMPLOYING ABOUT 1 600 PERSONNEL WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE SURVEY.

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#### TWO RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES PLANNED

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY PLANS TO BUILD ANOTHER TWO RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, PROBABLY ON LANTAO ISLAND AND CHEUNG CHAU.

TWO POSSIBLE SITES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECTS ON THE ISLANDS.

DURING A TOUR OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT ON PUBLIC HOUSING ON OUTLYING ISLANDS, THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR FRED PANG, HAS INSPECTED THE TWO SITES AT MUI WO ON LANTAO ISLAND AND ON CHEUNG CHAU.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A VISIT TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S SECOND RURAL ESTATE, THE NEWLY-COMPLETED CHEUNG KWAI ESTATE, WHICH IS FAST BECOMING A LANDMARK ON CHEUNG CHAU.

DESIGNED TO FIT IN WELL WITH THE LANDSCAPE OF THE ISLAND, CHEUNG KWAI ESTATE PROVIDES 472 MODERN FLATS IN 18 LOW-RISE BLOCKS OF TWO TO FOUR STOREYS HIGH.

THE FIRST RURAL ESTATE, LUNG TIN, WAS COMPLETED IN 1980 AT TAI O ON LANTAO ISLAND, HOUSING 1 300 PEOPLE IN 184 FLATS.

ACCOMPANIED ON THE TOUR BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS), MR HAIDER BARMA, MR PANG ALSO VISITED THE MUI WO TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA ON LANTAO, THE FIRST THA FOR OUTLYING ISLANDS.

THE \$3.6 MILLION THA PROVIDES SELF-CONTAINED ACCOMMODATION IN 12 BLOCKS OF FULL-CLADDED DUPLEX-TYPE UNITS FOR 111 FAMILIES INVOLVED IN DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCE ON THE ISLAND.

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TENNIS COURT FOR YUEN LONG RESIDENTS  
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THE FIRST PHASE OF A \$600 000 PROJECT TO PROVIDE MORE TENNIS COURT FACILITIES FOR YUEN LONG RESIDENTS HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

THE SAI CHING STREET PROVISIONAL TENNIS COURT, WITH THREE COURTS COSTING \$300 000, WAS TODAY (TUESDAY) OPENED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, MR TAI KUEN.

THE ENTIRE PROJECT, FUNDED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, WILL ALSO INCLUDE A CENTRE COURT FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION, TWO PRACTICE GROUNDS AND A SITTING-OUT AREA.

THE SAI CHING STREET TENNIS COURT IS UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WHICH ALSO TAKES CARE OF COURT BOOKINGS.

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RESTRICTED ZONES IN SHA TIN, KWAI CHUNG  
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A NUMBER OF ROADS IN SHA TIN WILL BE DESIGNATED AS 24-HOUR RESTRICTED ZONES FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 7).

THESE ARE:

- \* THE SECTION OF TAI PO ROAD BETWEEN SHING CHUEN ROAD AND JUNCTION J7.
- \* THE SECTION OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD BETWEEN TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD AND TAI PO ROAD.
- \* THE SECTION OF SHING CHUEN ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI PO ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

ON THE SAME DAY, THE FOLLOWING ROADS IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE DESIGNATED RESTRICTED ZONES FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY :

- \* TUNG CHI STREET BETWEEN LEI MUK ROAD AND SHEK YAM ROAD.
- \* THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF SHEK YAM ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH TUNG CHI STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES TO THE SOUTH.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS AND GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONES.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN FANLING  
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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OPENING OF FANLING BY-PASS:

- \* A NEW SHEUNG SHUI ROUNDABOUT WILL BE OPEN TO REPLACE THE EXISTING MINI-ROUNDABOUT.
- \* TWO SLIP ROADS LINKING THE NEW SHEUNG SHUI ROUNDABOUT WILL ALSO BE READY FOR EASTBOUND AND WESTBOUND TRAFFIC.
- \* THE ZEBRA CROSSING NEAR CHOI YUEN ESTATE WILL BE CANCELLED AND REPLACED BY A BRIDGE WITH PEDESTRIAN FOOTPATH.
- \* BUS STOPS AT TAI PO ROAD NEAR CHOI YUEN ESTATE WILL BE CANCELLED. PASSENGERS ARE ADVISED TO USE THE BUS STOP AT PO SHEK WU ROAD.

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ROADS OPEN IN CHAI WAN  
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THE NEW ROADS LINKING WING TAI INTERCHANGE WITH CHAI WAN ROAD ROUNDABOUT AND WING TAI ROAD WILL OPEN TO TRAFFIC FROM 10.30 AM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 7), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

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OFFICE REMOVAL  
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THE GROUP WORK UNIT IN THE NGAU TAU KOK ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS MOVED TO THE LOK WAH ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE NEW OFFICE IS STILL 3-7500047.

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MEET THE MEDIA  
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THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR GRAHAM OSBORNE, WILL MEET THE MEDIA ON THURSDAY (JUNE 6) AT 4 PM IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

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