



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1990

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GOVERNOR TOURS SHA TIN SCHOOLS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON VISITED TWO SCHOOLS IN SHA TIN, ONE A PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL AND THE OTHER AN AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOL WITH SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR ART AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SIR DAVID FIRST VISITED THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS YOW KAM YUEN PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL.

HE TOURED THE SCHOOL PREMISES AND OBSERVED CLASSES IN SESSION IN ELECTRICAL, PRINTING, LIGHT METALWORK AND FINISHING, OFFICE PRACTICE AND RETAILING WORKSHOPS.

SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF SECONDARY EDUCATION TO THAT PROVIDED IN GRAMMAR AND SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, AIMED AT STUDENTS WHO ARE MORE INCLINED TOWARDS PRACTICAL STUDIES.

HE NOTED THAT ALL PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS ALREADY OFFERED COURSES UP TO SENIOR SECONDARY LEVEL AND THE NEXT MAJOR DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE THE OPENING OF SIXTH-FORM CLASSES IN 1992.

"THIS WILL MAKE PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS EVEN MORE ATTRACTIVE BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO PURSUE THEIR EDUCATION IN VOCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL FIELDS," HE SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT SEVEN MORE PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WOULD BE BUILT OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

THE GOVERNOR THEN VISITED THE JOCKEY CLUB TI-I COLLEGE, A NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH TALENT AND POTENTIAL IN THE VISUAL ARTS AND IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT.

OPENED LAST SEPTEMBER WITH A TOTAL OF 11 SECONDARY 1 TO 4 CLASSES, THE SCHOOL WILL REACH FULL DEVELOPMENT IN 1993-94 WITH 29 SECONDARY 1 TO 7 CLASSES.

SIR DAVID SAW AN EXHIBITION OF STUDENT ART WORK AND WATCHED GYMNASIUM, PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SCULPTURE CLASSES IN SESSION.

"THESE EXCELLENT FACILITIES WERE MADE POSSIBLE BY A GENEROUS DONATION OF \$70 MILLION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

"THIS IS A VERY GOOD EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN DO TO ADD DIVERSITY TO OUR TRADITIONAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL EDUCATION," SIR DAVID SAID BEFORE ENDING HIS VISIT.

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DAME LYDIA PAYS TRIBUTE TO STAFF OF IMMIGRATION DEPT

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THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, DAME LYDIA DUNN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) SHE IS IMPRESSED BY THE DEDICATION, RESILIENCE AND RESOURCEFULNESS WITH WHICH STAFF OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMANDS PLACED ON THEM.

DAME LYDIA WAS OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW IMMIGRATION HEADQUARTERS AT 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG.

"OVER THE PAST YEARS, THE INCREASE IN TRAVEL TO AND FROM HONG KONG, THE INFLUX OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, THE CONSTANT FLOW OF IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA, AND THE SURGE IN APPLICATIONS FOR NATURALISATION AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE ALL ADDED TO THE PRESSURE ON THE STAFF OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

"THE ABILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES AND TO CONTINUE TO OFFER ITS SERVICES IN AN EFFICIENT MANNER HAS BEEN ONE OF THE FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO HONG KONG'S SUCCESS," SHE SAID.

DAME LYDIA CONGRATULATED THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF ON THE EXCELLENT WORK THEY HAD BEEN DOING, AND WISHED THEM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN MEETING THE MANY CHALLENGES THAT WOULD LIE AHEAD.

THE NEW IMMIGRATION HEADQUARTERS ARE NOW OCCUPYING 25 FLOORS OF A 48-STOREY GOVERNMENT BUILDING, WITH THE FLOOR AREA TOTTALLING SOME 33,000 SQUARE METRES. EIGHT FLOORS ARE RESERVED FOR PUBLIC OFFICES AND CERTAIN FLOORS ARE DESIGNED TO HOUSE COMPUTERS AND OTHER SPECIALISED EQUIPMENT.

THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR LAURENCE LEUNG, SAID THE NEW HEADQUARTERS ENABLED THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE A BETTER WORKING ENVIRONMENT TO THE STAFF AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, VERY MUCH IMPROVED FACILITIES TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO VISITED THE DEPARTMENT IN TENS OF THOUSANDS EVERY DAY, FOR A MULTIPLICITY OF SERVICES.

"THE REPROVISIONING EXERCISE HAS PROVED TO BE REMARKABLY SMOOTH AND SUCCESSFUL WITH VIRTUALLY NO DISRUPTION IN THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC," MR LEUNG ADDED.

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GOVERNMENT TO STEP UP ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES

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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO BAN SMOKING ON ALL FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, AS WELL AS IN CINEMAS, THEATRES, CONCERT HALLS, AND VIDEO-GAME CENTRES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

AT THE SAME TIME, TOBACCO ADVERTISING WILL BE SUBJECT TO NEW REQUIREMENTS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH SMOKING ARE FULLY UNDERSTOOD, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THESE DECISIONS WERE MADE IN RESPONSE TO VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS PUT FORWARD BY THE COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH (COSH), AND FOLLOWED A PERIOD OF EXTENSIVE PUBLIC CONSULTATION, DURING WHICH THE VIEWS OF DISTRICT BOARDS WERE SOLICITED.

"WE HAVE TRIED TO STEER A MODERATE COURSE TOWARDS GREATER SMOKING CONTROLS, HAVING CAREFULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT PUBLIC OPINION EXPRESSED.

"THERE WAS MUCH PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR EXTENDING NO-SMOKING AREAS IN PUBLIC PLACES, BUT PROPOSALS FOR EXTENDING CONTROLS ON TOBACCO ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP PROVED TO BE MORE CONTROVERSIAL," HE SAID.

THE MAIN CHANGES PROPOSED ARE:

- \* NO-SMOKING AREAS IN PUBLIC PLACES WILL BE EXTENDED: SMOKING WILL BE BANNED IN ALL PUBLIC TRANSPORT, INCLUDING TAXIS, AND IN CINEMAS, THEATRES, CONCERT HALLS AND VIDEO-GAME CENTRES.
- \* ROTATING HEALTH WARNINGS CONTAINING STRONGER AND MORE SPECIFIC MESSAGES WILL REPLACE THE SINGLE PRESCRIBED HEALTH WARNING ON CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS, AND THE SIZE OF THE WARNING ON CIGARETTE PACKETS AND CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS WILL BE ENLARGED.
- \* A MANDATORY UPPER LIMIT ON THE TAR AND/OR NICOTINE CONTENT OF CIGARETTES, THOUGH THE LIMITS TO BE IMPOSED HAVE STILL TO BE DETERMINED. THE TAR GROUP DESIGNATIONS WILL BE RESTRUCTURED IN LINE WITH THE UK PRACTICE.
- \* FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT'S EARLIER DECISION TO BAN TOBACCO ADVERTISING COMPLETELY ON TELEVISION AND RADIO WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 1990, THIS BAN WILL BE EXTENDED TO CINEMAS BY DECEMBER 1991.

/\* THE LAW .....

- \* THE LAW WILL BE AMENDED TO ENSURE THAT HEALTH WARNINGS IN TOBACCO ADVERTISEMENTS ON HOARDINGS, PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES AND OTHER EXTERNAL SIGNBOARDS ARE DISPLAYED CONSPICUOUSLY.
- \* WHILE TOBACCO SPONSORSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO BE PERMITTED, ADVERTISEMENTS USING A CIGARETTE BRAND NAME AS THE SPONSOR OF AN EVENT WILL NO LONGER BE EXEMPTED FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO DISPLAY A HEALTH WARNING.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID LEGISLATION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD NOW BE PREPARED.

"WE HOPE TO INTRODUCE AN AMENDMENT BILL TO THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) ORDINANCE INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE NEXT SESSION," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO DISCOURAGING SMOKING IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY AN EXEMPLARY ROLE.

"ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO BAN SMOKING IN PUBLIC AREAS IN GOVERNMENT PREMISES INCLUDING CONFERENCE ROOMS WITHIN TWO YEARS," HE SAID.

TURNING TO OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS PUT FORWARD BY COSH WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WAS UNABLE TO ACCEPT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE RESTAURANTS TO DISPLAY A SIGN STATING WHETHER THEY HAVE AREAS FOR NON-SMOKERS HAD PRODUCED STRONG OBJECTIONS FROM THE TRADE.

"MOST RESTAURANTS IN HONG KONG ARE SMALL AND THIS REQUIREMENT WOULD NOT HAVE THE EFFECT OF ENCOURAGING THEM TO SET ASIDE NO-SMOKING AREAS.

"HOWEVER, WE ARE AWARE THAT CERTAIN LARGE RESTAURANTS IN HONG KONG ARE ALREADY PROVIDING NO-SMOKING AREAS FOR THEIR CUSTOMERS.

"INSTEAD OF RESORTING TO LEGISLATION, WE WOULD URGE THE RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT TO SET ASIDE NO-SMOKING AREAS, AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO DECIDED NOT TO REQUIRE THE PACKETS AND CONTAINERS OF PIPE TOBACCO AND CIGARS TO DISPLAY A HEALTH WARNING.

"WHILE IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY TRUE THAT CIGARS AND PIPE TOBACCO ARE ALSO HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH, THESE PRODUCTS ARE CONSUMED BY A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF THE ADULT POPULATION OF HONG KONG.

"TO EXTEND TO THESE PRODUCTS THE STATUTORY HEALTH WARNING REQUIREMENT WOULD HAVE A NEGLIGIBLE IMPACT ON OUR ANTI-SMOKING EFFORTS," HE SAID.

ON THE RECOMMENDATION TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF CIGARETTES TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18, HE SAID MANY RESPONDENTS RECOGNISED THAT THIS WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE, GIVEN THE MANY RETAIL OUTLETS FOR CIGARETTES IN HONG KONG.

"MOREOVER, AS MANY YOUNG PEOPLE STARTED TO SMOKE OUT OF CURIOSITY, THE PROPOSED BAN COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

"ACCORDINGLY, INSTEAD OF LEGISLATING, EMPHASIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE PLACED ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY AS A MEANS OF DISCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM STARTING TO SMOKE," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT IN EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF SMOKING, THE COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF DR RONALD LEUNG, WAS PLAYING A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE.

"SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1987, COSH HAS BECOME A FOCAL POINT FOR ALL INITIATIVES AGAINST THE HEALTH HAZARDS OF SMOKING.

"IN PARTICULAR, THE YOUTH CAMPAIGN CURRENTLY BEING LAUNCHED BY COSH ON THE THEME OF A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE WITHOUT SMOKING IS AN IMPORTANT VENTURE TO DISCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE FROM STARTING TO SMOKE," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE COSH PROPOSALS FOR A BAN ON ALL FORMS OF CIGARETTE ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP AS A LONG-TERM GOAL, AND FOR CONTROLS ON THE CONTENT OF ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE MEANTIME, THE SPOKESMAN SAID TO ACCEPT THESE RECOMMENDATIONS IN FULL WOULD BE SEEN BY MANY PEOPLE AT PRESENT AS UNACCEPTABLE INTERFERENCE WITH THE PRINT MEDIA AND AN INFRINGEMENT OF PROPERTY RIGHTS.

"APART FROM THE BAN ON ADVERTISING IN CINEMAS, THE STRATEGY TOWARDS OTHER FORMS OF CIGARETTE ADVERTISING WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT THE HEALTH WARNING IS MADE MORE IMPRESSIVE AND PROMINENT.

"EFFORTS WILL ALSO BE MADE TO GET THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY TO INTRODUCE GREATER RESTRICTIONS ON THE CONTENT OF ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE PRINT MEDIA THROUGH ITS VOLUNTARY CODE OF PRACTICE," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT ARTS AND SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS HAD FELT THAT THE PROPOSED BAN ON TOBACCO SPONSORSHIP WOULD INHIBIT THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS AND SPORTS IN HONG KONG.

"AS FOR THE ALTERNATIVE IDEA OF IMPOSING A LEVY ON THE SALE OF CIGARETTES AND USING THE PROCEEDS TO SPONSOR ARTS AND SPORTS THROUGH AN INDEPENDENT BODY, THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD NOT FIT IN WELL WITH HONG KONG'S FISCAL SYSTEM," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT TOBACCO WAS ALREADY HIGHLY TAXED AND THE TAX HAD BEEN INCREASED BY 25 PER CENT IN THE RECENT BUDGET.

"SMOKERS ALREADY HAVE A STRONG FINANCIAL INCENTIVE TO QUIT," HE SAID.

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FORTY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS RELEASED, RETURNED TO CHINA

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FORTY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO HAD BEEN IMPRISONED FOR USING OTHER PEOPLE'S IDENTITY CARDS WERE RELEASED AND RETURNED TO CHINA EARLIER THIS WEEK AFTER IT WAS FOUND THAT THEY HAD BEEN CHARGED UNDER A REVOKED REGULATION.

THEY WERE AMONG A TOTAL OF 88 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT IN RECENT MONTHS UPON CONVICTION IN MAGISTRATE'S COURTS FOR THE OFFENCE UNDER REGULATION 12(3) OF THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS REGULATIONS.

ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR THE REPATRIATION OF THE OTHER 13, WHILE THE REMAINING 35 CONTINUE TO SERVE PRISON SENTENCES FOR OTHER OFFENCES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THE IIS, AND THREE OTHER PERSONS, HAD BEEN INADVERTENTLY CHARGED UNDER REGULATION 12(3) WHICH HAD BEEN REVOKED WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 1, 1989 AND REPLACED BY SECTION 7A(1A) OF THE MAIN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR HEAVIER PENALTIES FOR THE SAME OFFENCE.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO CHANGE IN HONG KONG'S POLICY TOWARDS ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

"ALL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BREAKING HONG KONG LAWS WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROSECUTED, AND ALL IIS ENTERING HONG KONG ILLEGALLY FROM CHINA WILL BE REPATRIATED," HE STRESSED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ALTERNATIVE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED TO RECTIFY THE OVERSIGHT, INCLUDING PROSECUTING THESE PEOPLE AFRESH UNDER SECTION 7A(1A). HOWEVER, A PARDON WAS CONSIDERED THE QUICKEST AND MOST EFFICIENT MEANS OF REMOVING THESE PEOPLE FROM PRISON IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW.

MEANWHILE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS ORDERED AN INTERNAL INQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO THE OVERSIGHT IN THE PREPARATION OF CHARGES IN THESE CASES.

STEPS HAVE ALSO BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT ALL NEW LEGISLATION RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS IS BROUGHT TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF COUNSEL, COURT PROSECUTORS AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

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UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR NOV - JAN RELEASED

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THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHILE THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASED DURING THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 1989 - JANUARY 1990.

THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT INDICATE THAT THE LABOUR MARKET WAS STILL GENERALLY TIGHT AS BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES REMAINED RELATIVELY LOW.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR NOVEMBER 1989 - JANUARY 1990 WAS 1.3 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 1.4 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1989. IT WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE DECREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN NOVEMBER 1989 - JANUARY 1990 WAS ESTIMATED AT 36,800, COMPARED WITH 37,600 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1989 AND 35,400 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1989.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR NOVEMBER 1989 - JANUARY 1990 WAS 0.9 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 0.6 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1989 AND 0.7 PER CENT FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE INCREASES OF 0.3 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD AND 0.2 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS IN NOVEMBER 1989 - JANUARY 1990 WAS 24,800, COMPARED WITH 17,800 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1989 AND 19,900 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1989.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (FOR EXAMPLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

/THE COMMISSIONER .....

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THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF PROVISIONAL COUNTS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY.

THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION. THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR DECEMBER 1989 - FEBRUARY 1990 WAS 1.5 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.6 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY FOR NOVEMBER 1989 - JANUARY 1990 COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 13,000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 48,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1989 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AROUND MARCH 20 AT \$10 PER COPY.

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#### SURVEY TO GAUGE INDUSTRIALISTS' NEEDS COMPLETED

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INADEQUATE ACCOMMODATION WAS THE MAJOR FACTOR FOR A HIGH LEVEL OF MOBILITY AMONG MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN HONG KONG, ACCORDING TO THE FINDINGS OF A RECENTLY COMPLETED GOVERNMENT-COMMISSIONED SURVEY.

THE SURVEY ON "LAND AND FACILITY REQUIREMENTS OF INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS" SUCCESSFULLY INTERVIEWED 2,000 ESTABLISHMENTS.

/THE FINDINGS .....

THE FINDINGS SHOWED THAT A QUARTER OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS HAD MOVED ONCE WITHIN THE PAST 10 YEARS AND ANOTHER 11 PER CENT HAD MOVED MORE THAN ONCE.

"THE MOST IMPORTANT DETERMINANT OF MOBILITY FOR MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IS THE INADEQUATE SIZE OF PREMISES, EITHER FOR ANTICIPATED EXPANSION OR FOR CURRENT PRODUCTION," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE SAID COMPULSORY MOVES, PRECIPITATED BY LEASE TERMINATION OR REDEVELOPMENT, HIGH RENTAL COST, POOR ENVIRONMENT AND LACK OF ADEQUATE SERVICES WERE ALSO IMPORTANT FACTORS.

ON THE SELECTION FOR FUTURE LOCATION, GOOD TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES TOPPED THE ORDER OF PRIORITIES, FOLLOWED BY LOW RENTALS/PROPERTY PRICES, SUFFICIENT-SIZED PREMISES AND AMPLE LABOUR SUPPLY IN THE VICINITY.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WERE ADEQUATE PARKING, LOADING AND UNLOADING FACILITIES AND PROXIMITY TO BUYERS AND SUPPLIERS.

THE FINDINGS ALSO SHOWED THAT KOWLOON AND NEW KOWLOON WERE THE MOST PREFERRED AREAS FOR RELOCATION.

HALF OF THE ENTREPRENEURS POLLED OPTED FOR THE TWO AREAS WHILE ONE-FIFTH PREFERRED TSUEN WAN/KWAI TSING.

ABOUT 13 PER CENT OF THEM WOULD CONSIDER MOVING AWAY FROM THE OLDER INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA, FIVE PER CENT ANTICIPATED A MOVE ACROSS THE BORDER TO CHINA AND ONLY ONE PER CENT TO OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES.

"IT IS EXPECTED THAT SUCH PERCEPTIONS WOULD CHANGE IN RESPONSE TO THE EXPANSION OF PORT FACILITIES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SURVEY RESULTS ALSO SHOWED THAT THERE MAY BE A RELATIVE DECLINE IN DEMAND FOR SMALL INDUSTRIAL SPACES OF LESS THAN 100 SQUARE METRES IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

DEMAND FOR NET INDUSTRIAL FLOOR SPACE OF THE EXISTING ESTABLISHMENTS WAS ESTIMATED TO INCREASE BY 1.9 MILLION SQUARE METRES OR NINE PER CENT IN THREE YEARS AND BY ANOTHER 0.9 MILLION SQUARE METRES OR 3.9 PER CENT IN FOUR TO FIVE YEARS.

FUTURE DEMAND FOR INDUSTRIAL SPACE WAS MOSTLY FOR MULTI-STOREY INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER THE SURVEY FINDINGS WHEN DRAWING UP THE FINAL PROPOSALS FOR THE METROPLAN.

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TAC DISCUSSES HYF FORWARD PLAN

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MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (THURSDAY) DISCUSSED THE FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAMME FOR 1990-94 PROPOSED BY THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY (HYF), THE DESIRABILITY OF PROVIDING CROSS HARBOUR TAXI STANDS, REPRESENTATION OF CONSUMER INTEREST ON THE TAC, THE TOLLS FOR GOVERNMENT TOLL TUNNELS AND THE IMPACT OF THE FUEL TAX INCREASE ON THE TAXI TRADE.

IN ITS ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, HYF PROPOSES A NEW SERVICE BETWEEN WAN CHAI AND TSIM SHA TSUI EAST AND IMPROVEMENTS TO SERVICES BETWEEN WAN CHAI AND HUNG HOM, AND SERVICES FOR CHEUNG CHAU, YUNG SHU WAN AND TSUEN WAN. THE PROPOSED SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE BETTER FREQUENCIES, LONGER OPERATING HOURS AND USE OF HIGHER CAPACITY VESSELS.

AS PART OF THE SERVICE RATIONALISATION EXERCISE FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, THE COMPANY HAS STARTED TO SUBSTITUTE DOUBLE DECKER VESSELS FOR THE TRIPLE DECK VESSELS USED ON THE NORTH POINT-KWUN TONG SERVICE, AND TO REORGANISE THE OPERATING HOURS AND FREQUENCY OF BOTH THE VEHICULAR AND THE PASSENGER CUM VEHICULAR SERVICES BETWEEN SAI WAN HO AND KWUN TONG.

MEMBERS WERE INFORMED THAT THE WEEKEND SERVICES BETWEEN KOWLOON POINT AND OUTLYING DISTRICTS, INCLUDING MUI WO AND CHEUNG CHAU, HAD BEEN QUITE POPULAR.

THE TAC ALSO NOTED THAT SINCE NOVEMBER 1989, HYF HAD DIVERTED THREE ORDINARY SAILINGS ON THE TSUEN WAN-CENTRAL SERVICE TO CALL AT TSING YI EACH MORNING AND EVENING, OFFERING RESIDENTS AN ADDITIONAL CHOICE.

TO IMPROVE PEAK-HOUR THROUGHPUT FOR ITS TUEN MUN-CENTRAL SERVICES, HYF HAS STARTED CONVERSION WORKS TO INCREASE THE PASSENGER CARRYING CAPACITY OF ITS HOVERFERRIES FROM 74 TO 105 SEATS BY UTILISING THE TONNAGE PREVIOUSLY RESERVED FOR HEAVY LUGGAGE.

THE COMPANY HAS ALSO AGREED TO EXAMINE, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PLANNED RECLAMATION FOR WEST KOWLOON, THE MERGING OF ITS TAI KOK TSUI-CENTRAL AND SHAM SHUI PO-CENTRAL PASSENGER SERVICES, AS A POSSIBLE MEASURE TO ENHANCE SERVICE EFFICIENCY.

ON FLEET DEVELOPMENT, MEMBERS OF THE TAC LEARNED THAT HYF WILL IMPROVE ITS VESSELS, INCLUDING THE INSTALLATION OF RADAR AND NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT, INTERNAL REFURBISHMENT AND UPGRADING OF ENGINES.

THE TAC ALSO DISCUSSED THE SETTING UP OF CROSS HARBOUR TAXI STANDS BUT DEFERRED DECISION ON THE MATTER PENDING A DETAILED STUDY ON THE POLICY OF CROSS HARBOUR TAXI SERVICE.

THE TAC ALSO DISCUSSED THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL'S RECENT REPORT.

/MEMBERS GENERALLY .....

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MEMBERS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AS THE PUBLIC WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE PRESENT CHANNEL OF TRANSPORT COMPLAINT AS WELL AS THE PROCEDURES THAT HAVE BEEN WELL ESTABLISHED OVER THE YEARS AND IS USING THE SYSTEM SATISFACTORILY.

MEMBERS ALSO NOTED THAT THE TCU PROVIDED THE TAC WITH USEFUL PUBLIC FEEDBACK FOR DELIBERATION OF TRANSPORT MATTERS.

THE TAC RECONSIDERED THE TOLLS FOR GOVERNMENT TOLL TUNNELS IN THE LIGHT OF A RE-ASSESSMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATION. AS A RESULT, MEMBERS RESCINDED THE RECOMMENDATION MADE AT THE MEETING OF TAC ON DECEMBER 7, 1989 THAT UNIFORM TOLLS SHOULD BE CHARGED AT ALL GOVERNMENT TUNNELS, AND MADE A NEW RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNMENT.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE NEW RECOMMENDATION WAS MADE MAINLY ON TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT GROUNDS.

WITH THE REVISED TOLLS FOR LION ROCK TUNNEL AT \$6, MOTORISTS WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO USE THE NEW SHING MUN TUNNEL WHICH OPENS IN APRIL, 1990 AND THE TAI PO ROAD WHICH HAS BEEN WIDENED.

ALL OTHER GOVERNMENT TUNNELS WOULD BE CHARGED AT \$3 PER TRIP. THIS REVISED RECOMMENDATION WOULD REDUCE REVENUE TO BE PAID BY MOTORISTS BY \$40 MILLION. THE TRAFFIC AT LION ROCK TUNNEL SHOULD BE REDUCED TO 95,000 IN 1991 BEFORE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL OPENS AND 91,000 IN 1992 AFTER TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL OPENS. THE DESIGN CAPACITY OF LION ROCK TUNNEL IS 80,000 VEHICLES A DAY.

WITH THE REDUCTION OF VEHICLES USING THE LION ROCK TUNNEL, BETTER UTILISATION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT WOULD BE ENCOURAGED AS TRAFFIC AT THE TUNNEL WOULD BE IMPROVED.

THE RECOMMENDATION IS IN LINE WITH THE POLICY OF USING TOLLS TO REGULATE TRAFFIC. TOLLS CAN BE INCREASED OR REDUCED UNDER THIS POLICY.

MEMBERS WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE RECENT COMPLAINTS BY TAXI DRIVERS AND OPERATORS OVER THE IMPACT OF FUEL TAX INCREASE ON THEIR INCOME.

THE ADMINISTRATION ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD TRY TO SPEED UP THE PROCESSING OF THE FARE INCREASE APPLICATION BY TAXI OPERATORS. THE TAC WILL MEET WHEN NECESSARY TO CO-ORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS.

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CONTEST

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A DISTRICT FLOWER ARRANGEMENT COMPETITION ON SATURDAY (MARCH 17).

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE HONG KONG GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION, THE CONTEST WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 2.30 PM AND 6 PM AT THE WESTERN DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE, 36A WESTERN STREET, SAI YING PUN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ORGANISERS SAID ADULTS AND GIRL GUIDES FROM THE DISTRICT ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE COMPETITION.

"CONTESTANTS HAVE TO BRING WITH THEM PLANTS OR FLOWERS AND ARRANGE THEM ON THE THEMES OF 'SPRING HAS RETURNED' AND 'I LOVE NATURE'," HE SAID.

THE ADJUDICATORS WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT, MR WONG YUEN-HEI, AND A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MRS IRENE LEE.

WINNERS OF THE OPEN AND GIRL GUIDES SECTIONS WILL BE AWARDED PRIZES AND TROPHIES.

APART FROM THE CONTEST, THERE WILL BE A DEMONSTRATION AND A LECTURE ON FLOWER ARRANGEMENT. ADMISSION IS FREE.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF ENTRY FORMS FOR THE CONTEST ARE STILL OBTAINABLE FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE'S PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE AT HARBOUR BUILDING IN PIER ROAD AND AT THE WESTERN DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 852 3488.

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BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR IN YAU TSIM

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OFFICE BEARERS OF OWNERS' CORPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES IN YAU TSIM DISTRICT ARE BEING INVITED TO ATTEND A SEMINAR ON MARCH 24 (SATURDAY) TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

THE SEMINAR, ORGANISED BY THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE, WILL BE HELD AT THE HENRY G. LEONG YAUMATEI COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 60 PUBLIC SQUARE STREET.

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IT WILL START WITH A SHORT DRAMA PRESENTING COMMON DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY THE CORPORATIONS AND COMMITTEES. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY GROUP DISCUSSION ON HOW THE STATUTORY POWERS PROVIDED BY MUTUAL CONVENANTS CAN BE UTILISED TO OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES.

THE SEMINAR WILL START AT 7.30 PM.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR CAN MAKE A RESERVATION WITH THE DISTRICT OFFICE BY TELEPHONING 332 2716.

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TROPHIES FOR CLEAN VILLAGES IN SAI KUNG  
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LUNG MEI VILLAGE, MOK TSE CHE VILLAGE AND PO TOI O VILLAGE IN SAI KUNG WERE WINNERS OF THE CLEAN VILLAGE COMPETITION JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY TODAY (THURSDAY), REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VILLAGES WERE PRESENTED TROPHIES BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FREDERICK TONG.

THE COMPETITION WAS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES THE DISTRICT HELD IN SUPPORT OF THE TERRITORY-WIDE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN AND WAS THE LAST OF SEVEN CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS ORGANISED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

ITS AIMS WERE TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS AND TO MOTIVATE VILLAGERS TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN KEEPING THEIR VILLAGES CLEAN.

A TOTAL OF 11 VILLAGES TOOK PART IN THE COMPETITION WHICH STARTED ON FEBRUARY 19. THEY WERE PAK KONG, PAK WAI, LUNG MEI, MA NAM WAT, KAI HAM, MOK TSE CHE, MAU WU TSAI, HA YEUNG, HANG HAU, PO TOI O AND TSEUNG KWAN O VILLAGES.

ALSO PRESENT AT TODAY'S PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, MR HO KOON-SHUN; CONVENER OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUP ON KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN 1989-90, MR EDWARD PONG; AND THE DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT (SAI KUNG) OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR CHU WING-WAI.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM

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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) MORNING.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE CONGESTION PROBLEM AT THE NAM FUNG CENTRE FOOTBRIDGE AND INADEQUATE COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN LOWER HON MAN VILLAGE.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS FROM VARIOUS WORKING GROUPS AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN THE HING SHING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, SECOND FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, TSUEN WAN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.45 AM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

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THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR 1990-91 AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE 20 PROJECTS WOULD COST \$1.69 MILLION, REPRESENTING A 22 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE TOTAL COST OF \$1.38 MILLION INCURRED IN 1989-90.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CURRENT PROJECTS AND THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO THE OPEN AREA OUTSIDE THE WELFARE CENTRE AT LUTHERAN VILLAGE ON CHEUNG CHAU.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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IMPROVEMENT IN RTHK'S AM SERVICE  
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RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG (RTHK) HAS INSTALLED A NEW AMPLITUDE MODULATION (AM) TRANSMITTER TO STRENGTHEN THE SERVICE OF RADIO 5 (AM 783).

WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW TRANSMITTER, RADIO 5 STARTED ITS IMPROVED SERVICE ON MARCH 4, A RTHK SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE NEW AM TRANSMITTER HAS A WIDER MODULATION, RESULTING IN SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED RECEPTION FOR RADIO 5 TRANSMISSION," HE SAID.

AS FOR PROGRAMME SERVICE, RADIO 5 PROVIDES WEATHER BULLETIN FOR FISHERMEN SIX TIMES A DAY -- AT MIDNIGHT, 4 AM, 6 AM, 1 PM, 6.28 PM AND 10 PM. THIS SERVICE COVERS THE AREA 400 KILOMETRES OUTSIDE HONG KONG BOUNDARIES.

IN ADDITION, THE CHANNEL'S "FISHERMEN'S HALF HOUR" PROGRAMME IS BROADCAST EVERY TUESDAY AT 6.30 PM.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT TESTS ON AM STEREO BROADCASTING WOULD SOON BE CARRIED OUT IN CHUNG HOM KOK, AND THE SERVICE WOULD COMMENCE AFTER THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW AM RADIATING MAST BETWEEN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.

"WITH AM STEREO BROADCASTING, BOTH RADIO 3 (AM 567) AND RADIO 5 (AM 783) WILL HAVE A HIGHER TRANSMISSION EFFICIENCY," HE SAID.

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TWO NT LOTS TO LET BY TENDER  
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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF TWO LOTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

LOCATED IN AREA 11A, SAN KWAI STREET, KWAI CHUNG, THE FIRST LOT COVERS TWO PORTIONS WHICH MEASURE 1,850 AND 140 SQUARE METRES. BOTH PORTIONS ARE FOR A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK FOR VEHICLES, EXCLUDING CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS,

/THE OTHER .....

THE OTHER LOT IS A 25,900-SQUARE-METRE SITE IN AREA 21, TSING YI ISLAND. IT IS FOR OPEN STORAGE AND/OR LOADING, UNLOADING AND STORAGE OF CONTAINERS FROM SEA OR LAND, INCLUDING CONTAINER CONSOLIDATION (STUFFING AND DE-STUFFING) ONLY.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON MARCH 30.

FORMS OF TENDERS, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET.

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WARNING ON UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS TO BEWARE OF OVERCHARGE BY UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED 33 COMPLAINTS AGAINST LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES LAST YEAR AND THE MAJORITY INVOLVED OVERCHARGE.

"UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATIONS, AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY MAY CHARGE A JOB-SEEKER A MAXIMUM OF \$5 FOR REGISTRATION AND ANOTHER \$5 FOR RENEWAL AFTER THREE MONTHS," THE LABOUR OFFICER (EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES ADMINISTRATION), MRS ADA LEUNG, SAID.

"COMMISSION CHARGEABLE FOR A SUCCESSFUL PLACEMENT IS ALSO LIMITED TO NOT MORE THAN 10 PER CENT OF THE JOB-SEEKER'S PAY IN THE FIRST MONTH," MRS LEUNG ADDED.

THE REGULATIONS ALSO PERMIT AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY TO CHARGE AN EMPLOYER \$35 FOR EACH VACANCY REGISTERED AND \$20 FOR RENEWAL WHILE THE COMMISSION FOR EACH PLACEMENT IS A MATTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EMPLOYER AND THE AGENCY.

MRS LEUNG SAID THE DEPARTMENT CARRIED OUT FREQUENT INSPECTIONS TO ENSURE THAT EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES COMPLIED WITH THE REGULATIONS.

"AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY WHICH CHARGES MORE THAN THE PRESCRIBED FEES IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$20,000," SHE SAID.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON CHARGES PAYABLE TO EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES AND REPORTS ON OVERCHARGE CAN BE MADE TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES ADMINISTRATION ON TEL. 852 3540 AND 852 3541.

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ID CARD REMINDER FOR MEN BORN BETWEEN 1928-31

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REMINDED TODAY (THURSDAY) MEN BORN IN 1928, 1929, 1930 OR 1931 TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS BEFORE APRIL 7 THIS YEAR.

"TO AVOID THE LAST-MINUTE RUSH, MEN OF THIS AGE GROUP WHO HAVE NOT YET APPLIED FOR A NEW IDENTITY CARD SHOULD COME FORWARD WITHOUT DELAY.

"FAILURE TO APPLY FOR A NEW IDENTITY CARD WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD IS AN OFFENCE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$3,000," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

APPLICANTS CAN GO TO ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICES TO RENEW THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

THESE OFFICES ARE OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 9.30 PM DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

"THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE VERY CROWDED IN THE EVENINGS. TO AVOID HAVING TO QUEUE UP FOR A LONG TIME AT THE ISSUE OFFICES OR TO COME BACK ON ANOTHER DAY, APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO GO TO THESE OFFICES IN THE MORNINGS OR THE AFTERNOONS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THEY MAY MAKE USE OF THE PHONE-IN SERVICE TO ARRANGE FOR AN APPOINTMENT BY CALLING THE OFFICE OF THEIR CHOICE.

THE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE:

HONG KONG : BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.  
TEL. NO. 574 7070

EAST KOWLOON : AMOY PLAZA, SECOND FLOOR, 77 NGAU TAU  
KOK ROAD.  
TEL. NO. 755 3679

WEST KOWLOON : CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SECOND FLOOR,  
393 CANTON ROAD, YAU MA TEI.  
TEL. NO. 723 2424

TSUEN WAN : EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,  
29-37 TSUEN FU STREET.  
TEL. NO. 498 1259

SHA TIN : SHOP 8A, SECOND FLOOR, CHANWAY SHOPPING  
CENTRE, 11-17, SHA TIN CENTRE STREET.  
TEL. NO. 605 9108

/YUEN LONG .....

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YUEN LONG : HOP YICK CENTRE, SECOND FLOOR, 31 HOP YICK ROAD.  
TEL. NO. 477 1543

TUEN MUN : CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,  
CHI LOK FA YUEN.  
TEL. NO. 458 0862

SHEUNG SHUI : TSUEN WO TAI LAU, GROUND FLOOR, 82-84 SAN FUNG AVENUE, SHEK WU HUI.  
TEL. NO. 672 7191

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE DOCUMENT TO BE BROUGHT ALONG, THEY MAY MAKE USE OF THE 24-HOUR RECORDED MESSAGE SERVICE BY DAILING 824 0303.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM FOR TSUEN WAN  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS COMMISSIONED CONSULTANTS TO CARRY OUT DETAILED DESIGN AND CONTRACT PREPARATION FOR AN AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM IN TSUEN WAN.

THIS IS ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LATEST TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEM IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF TRAFFIC IN THE DISTRICT.

THE PROPOSED SYSTEM WILL COVER ALL TRAFFIC SIGNALS IN TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI, NUMBERING ABOUT 110 BY 1993.

THE CONSULTANCY FOLLOWED THE COMPLETION OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR TO INVESTIGATE THE VARIOUS AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVES AND TO CONSIDER THE BEST TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM FOR TSUEN WAN.

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR CHAN CHIN-CHUN, SAID IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING TRAFFIC AND COMPLEXITY OF TSUEN WAN, THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED TO APPLY MODERN COMPUTERISED AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES TO PROVIDE ENHANCED CAPABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY IN TRAFFIC CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT IN THE AREA.

TO KEEP THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD INFORMED OF THE PROJECT, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WILL MAKE A PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TODAY (THURSDAY).

/A SIMILAR .....

A SIMILAR PRESENTATION WILL BE MADE AT THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS INSTALLED IN KOWLOON AND HONG KONG HAD PROVED TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE IN MANAGING THE UTILISATION OF ROAD CAPACITY AND HAD RESULTED IN SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS TO REDUCING JOURNEY TIME, NUMBER OF STOPS AND STOP TIME, MR CHAN SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT HAD, THEREFORE, DECIDED TO EXTEND THE SYSTEM TO OTHER NEW TOWNS AND TSUEN WAN WAS THE FIRST TO HAVE SUCH SYSTEMS PLANNED, HE ADDED.

TENDERS FOR THE SYSTEM WOULD BE INVITED LATER THIS YEAR. THE PROJECT, ESTIMATED TO COST \$70 MILLION, WOULD COME INTO OPERATION IN 1993.

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#### URBAN CLEARWAYS IN SHEUNG WAN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 17), THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ROADS IN SHEUNG WAN WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY:

- \* THE SECTION OF WING LOK STREET FROM A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CLEVERLY STREET TO A POINT ABOUT SIX METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- \* THE SECTION OF CLEVERLY STREET FROM A POINT ABOUT 24 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH WING LOK STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 13 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY ON THE SAME SECTIONS OF WING LOK STREET AND CLEVERLY STREET WILL BE CANCELLED.

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN BAKER STREET

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 17), THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF BAKER STREET IN HUNG HOM BETWEEN PO LOI STREET AND HUNG HOM ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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BAN ZONE IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 17), RED HILL ROAD IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL BE DESIGNATED A BAN ZONE 24 HOURS DAILY.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT THOSE FOR ACCESS, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THIS BAN ZONE.

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