



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1979

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FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1979

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VICTORIA BARRACKS FORMALLY HANDED OVER TO GOVT TODAY

VICTORIA BARRACKS, HOME OF THE BRITISH FORCES IN HONG KONG FOR MORE THAN 130 YEARS, WAS FORMALLY HANDED OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING.

A FIRM OF LOCAL CONSULTANTS IS BEING APPOINTED TO REPORT TO GOVERNMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THE AREA ZONED FOR RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE PURPOSES ON THE APPROVED LAND USE ZONING PLAN FOR VICTORIA BARRACKS.

IN THE MEANTIME, ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO TAKE OVER AND MANAGE THE WHOLE OF THE RELEASED AREA SO THAT IT IS SAFE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC ACCESS.

AS SOON AS THIS HAS BEEN DONE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON PUBLIC USE OF THE BARRACKS WILL BE MADE.

THE INTENTION IS THAT THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE ACCESS UNTIL GOVERNMENT IS READY TO BEGIN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE AREA WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE IN ABOUT 12 MONTHS TIME.

SHORTLY AFTER THIS, ROAD WORKS WILL ALSO HAVE TO START IN THE NORTHEAST OF THE BARRACKS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF COMMERCIAL SITES AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW SUPREME COURT.

AS FOR THE BUILDINGS VACATED BY THE ARMY, IT IS INTENDED TO MAKE USE OF THEM ON A STRICTLY TEMPORARY BASIS AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL BE MOVING IN OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

THIS TEMPORARY USE WILL IN NO WAY PREJUDICE PERMANENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA, OR DELAY PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE FACILITIES IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE BARRACKS.

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OIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETS
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AT A MEETING OF THE OIL POLICY COMMITTEE THIS MORNING, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE POWER COMPANIES AND THE MAJOR OIL DISTRIBUTORS REVIEWED THE POSITION IN HONG KONG AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF A POSSIBLE OIL SHORTAGE FOR THE COMMUNITY.

THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE SHORTAGE IN MOST CATEGORIES OF OIL PRODUCTS EXCEPT FOR FUEL OIL WHICH IS USED PRIMARILY FOR THE GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY.

IT WILL BE STUDYING IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WAYS AND MEANS OF REDUCING ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION INCLUDING THE RUNNING OF A SAVE FUEL CAMPAIGN.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT INDICATIONS FROM OIL COMPANIES WERE THAT WITH THE CURTAILMENT OF NORMAL OIL EXPORTS FROM IRAN, THE WORLD-WIDE SUPPLY OF OIL FALLS SHORT OF DEMAND AND THIS MEANT THAT CONSUMPTION WOULD HAVE TO BE REDUCED.

LEADING INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES MEETING TOGETHER IN THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO REDUCE THEIR CONSUMPTION OF OIL PRODUCTS.

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT PEOPLE SHOULD BEGIN TO CONSERVE FUEL NOW BY TAKING SUCH SIMPLE MEASURES AS REMEMBERING TO SWITCH OFF LIGHTS, AIR-CONDITIONING AND TELEVISION SETS WHEN THEY ARE NOT NEEDED.

HE SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED INCREASE IN OIL PRICES, LOWER CONSUMPTION WOULD ALSO RESULT IN LOWER ELECTRICITY BILLS.

MEANWHILE, THE OIL COMPANIES PLAN TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT THEIR INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS TO ADVISE THEM ON MEASURES THEY MIGHT TAKE TO ECONOMISE ON THE USE OF FUEL.

THE POWER COMPANIES ARE CONSIDERING SETTING UP A UNIT TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC ON HOW TO MAKE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF ELECTRICITY.

OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY BEGUN ECONOMY MEASURES. NEW ZEALAND HAS IMPLEMENTED A CONSERVATION PROGRAMME. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED RESTRICTIONS ON CONSUMPTION AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT WILL BEGIN A CONSERVATION PROGRAMME NEXT WEEK.

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19.2 HECTARES OF LAND FOR SALE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO SELL 53 LOTS COVERING MORE THAN 19 HECTARES OF LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.

THE BULK OF THE LAND IS FOR VARIOUS KINDS OF RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT -- AND MOST OF IT IS TO BE SOLD BY TENDER TO HOLDERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR. FRANK ROOME, SAID TODAY THE SALES PROGRAMME ALSO INCLUDED PUBLIC AUCTIONS OF 15 SITES INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL LOTS AT SHA TIN, TUEN MUN AND SAI KUNG.

HOWEVER, TWO AREAS IN THE SALES PROGRAMME THAT WOULD ATTRACT CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WERE BIG PRESTIGE RESIDENTIAL SITES IN SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN.

HE SAID 11 DIFFERENT SITES ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE SHA TIN VALLEY OVERLOOKING THE RACECOURSE WOULD BE AUCTIONED OR TENDERED AS PRIME RESIDENTIAL LOTS FOR LOW AND MEDIUM RISE DEVELOPMENTS.

+THERE ARE FOUR SITES IN ONE PARCEL NEAR THE RACECOURSE RAILWAY STATION WHICH ARE EARMARKED FOR MEDIUM DENSITY DEVELOPMENT POSSIBLY ALONG THE LINES OF THE WORLD WIDE GARDENS COMPLEX ON THE SHA TIN APPROACH ROAD.

+IN THE SECOND PLANNING AREA, SEVEN SITES HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE FOR TWO-STOREY TOWN HOUSE DEVELOPMENT.

+THESE SITES HAVE A COMMANDING VIEW NOT ONLY OF THE RACECOURSE, BUT OF THE WHOLE VALLEY TO THE SOUTH AND TOLO HARBOUR TO THE NORTH.

+ACCESS ROADS ARE BEING BUILT AND ALL OTHER SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED, AND EVEN THOUGH THE SALES ARE SOME TIME OFF, THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN GREAT INTEREST IN THE SITES BECAUSE THEY ARE IN A LOCATION THAT IS KNOWN AS THE JARDINE'S LOOKOUT OF SHA TIN.+

MR. ROOME SAID THAT TWO SITES IN EACH OF THE PRESTIGE RESIDENTIAL AREAS WOULD BE AUCTIONED WHILE THE REMAINDER WOULD BE TENDERED TO LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENT HOLDERS.

THE OTHER BIG RESIDENTIAL SITE AT TAI WO TSUEN - ON FORMED PLATFORMS COVERING SIX HECTARES - WOULD ALSO BE TENDERED TO EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENT HOLDERS.

+THIS IS A VERY BIG SITE - MORE THAN SIX HECTARES - AND THE CONDITIONS OF SALE HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO ENSURE A FIRST-CLASS RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SOME 6,000 PEOPLE,+ MR. ROOME SAID.

/+THE PLOT ,....

+THE PLOT RATIO HAS BEEN SET AT A LEVEL TO ALLOW FLEXIBILITY AND THE WHOLE SCHEME WILL INCORPORATE A PRIMARY SCHOOL, LANDSCAPING, OPEN SPACE, COMMERCIAL AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES - A SELF-CONTAINED DEVELOPMENT.+

MR. ROOME SAID A NUMBER OF GOOD RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES WOULD ALSO BE SOLD AT TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, SAI KUNG AND ON LANTAU ISLAND AT CHEUNG SHA, NEAR THE SOUTH LANTAU HOSPITAL.

ON INDUSTRIAL LAND, MR. ROOME POINTED OUT THAT 17 LOTS COVERING MORE THAN 40,000 SQUARE METRES WOULD BE AUCTIONED OR TENDERED.

THESE WOULD BE AT KWAI CHUNG, TUEN MUN AND FO TAN IN SHA TIN AS WELL AS NEW INDUSTRIAL AREAS BEING OPENED UP IN SAI KUNG.

THE CONSIDERABLY INCREASED SALES PROGRAMME COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS RESULTED FROM THE RAPID PROGRESS OF THE LAND PRODUCTION PROGRAMME IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW TOWN AREAS, HE SAID.

+THE INITIAL EMPHASIS WAS IN PROVIDING LAND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING BUT NOW THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF LAND BECOMING AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL GIVE THE TOWNS A PROPER BALANCE.

+MOST OF OUR LAND IS BEING SOLD BY TENDER IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF REDUCING ITS COMMITMENT TO HOLDERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENT DOCUMENTS,+ MR. ROOME SAID.

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NEW PRICE STRUCTURE FOR WATER

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THE WATERWORKS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1979 INTRODUCING THE NEW PRICE STRUCTURE FOR WATER WERE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE NEW PRICES WILL BE REFLECTED IN BILLS RELATING TO WATER WHOLLY CONSUMED IN FOUR-MONTH BILLING PERIODS, COMMENCING ON OR AFTER APRIL 1, 1979.

A WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THIS MEANT THE NEW RATES WOULD BE APPLIED IN RESPECT OF BILLS ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 1, 1979.

A TEMPORARY CONCESSIONARY TARIFF WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO LARGE TRADE CONSUMERS WHO SATISFY CERTAIN CRITERIA, AND A FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS RESPECT WOULD BE MADE SHORTLY.

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TB TREATMENT SHORTENED
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WITH THE ADVANCE MADE IN MODERN MEDICINE, PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO UNDERGO LONG PERIOD OF TREATMENT WHICH USUALLY LASTS 18 MONTHS.

THIS HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY USING A COMBINATION OF DRUGS IN A NEW SHORT COURSE TREATMENT WHICH HAS NOW BEEN INTRODUCED IN HONG KONG.

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. K.L. THONG, STATED THIS WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HONG KONG ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS AND THORACIC DISEASE ASSOCIATION THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

+ONLY THE MOST DIFFICULT CASES, AND THESE ARE NOW IN SMALL MINORITY, NEED TO HAVE TREATMENT CONTINUED FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AND FOR MANY, FOUR OF FIVE MONTHS MAY BE ENOUGH,+ HE SAID.

+SIX-MONTH TREATMENT MAY STILL SOUND LONG BUT IS, NEVERTHELESS, SURELY A DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT ON THE PREVIOUS PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS,+ HE ADDED.

DR. THONG POINTED OUT THAT THE NOTIFICATION RATE OF TUBERCULOSIS DROPPED FROM 160 PER 100,000 POPULATION IN 1977 TO 144 LAST YEAR AND THE DEATH RATE FROM 11.8 TO ONLY NINE.

HOWEVER, HE WARNED THAT THE DISEASE COULD NOT BE LIGHTLY DISREGARDED AS THERE WERE STILL SOME 6,600 NOTIFICATIONS WITH 420 DEATHS REPORTED LAST YEAR.

+INDEED, IT MUST BE EMPHASISED THAT TUBERCULOSIS REMAINS THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE SOME SEVEN MILLION CASES OF ACTIVE TB IN THE WORLD TODAY WITH AT LEAST HALF A MILLION DEATHS A YEAR,+ HE SAID.

AT THE MOMENT, SAID DR. THONG, THERE MUST BE ABOUT 16,000 CASES OF ACTIVE TB IN THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY REQUIRING ATTENTION.

ALTHOUGH MANY WERE ALREADY UNDER TREATMENT THERE MUST STILL BE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF HIDDEN CASES, HE SAID.

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SHORT COURSE CHEMOTHERAPY, THE DEPARTMENT'S CHEST SERVICE WILL BE LAUNCHING A CASE-FINDING CAMPAIGN IN MAY.

AS ELDERLY MEN ARE ESPECIALLY LIABLE TO SUFFER FROM ACTIVE INFECTIOUS TUBERCULOSIS, THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE FOCUSED ON THIS GROUP.

DR. THONG STRESSED THAT THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS NOW IS +QUICK, FREE AND RARELY NEEDS HOSPITALISATION.+

+IT WILL ALSO BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND EVERYONE THAT TB, IF NOT TREATED, REMAINS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS DISEASE,+ HE ADDED.

/DR. THONG

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DR. THONG SAID THAT PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TB HAS BEEN STEADY RATHER THAN SPECTACULAR.

ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THIS MUST BE THE VERY HIGH POPULATION DENSITY IN HONG KONG WITH ITS INCREASED RISK OF INFECTION.

+ I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT THE LEVEL OF TUBERCULOSIS IN THE VAST NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS REMAINS BELOW THAT OF THE GENERAL POPULATION,+ HE SAID.

+ I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE BETTER HOUSING WHICH IS BEING PROVIDED AND THE GENERAL RISE IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DECREASE IN TUBERCULOSIS,+ HE ADDED.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR NEW TOWN PROJECTS

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) INVITED TENDERS FOR SITE FORMATION, ROAD AND DRAINAGE WORKS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE WORKS FORM PART OF THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

MR. K.T. KUO, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, SAID 31 HECTARES OF LAND WOULD BE FORMED UNDER THE CONTRACT.

OF THESE, 14.7 HECTARES WILL BE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING- 1.3 HECTARES FOR PRIVATE HOUSING- 10 HECTARES FOR GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY USES AND FIVE HECTARES FOR COMMERCIAL-RESIDENTIAL USES.

MR. KUO SAID THE LAND FORMED WOULD ENABLE ACCOMMODATION TO BE PROVIDED FOR SOME 46,000 PEOPLE IN PUBLIC AND 22,600 IN PRIVATE HOUSING.

THE CONTRACT, HE ADDED, WOULD ALSO INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TRUNK SEWER, SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE, FIVE BOX CULVERTS AND PART OF A RIVER WALL.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN JUNE AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 27 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE PROJECT WAS DESIGNED, AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED, BY MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA, CONSULTING ENGINEERS FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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RTHK FILM ON HK SCENIC SPOTS
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HONG KONG'S SCENIC SPOTS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED IN A RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG PRODUCTION TO BE BROADCAST ON TVB JADE AT 7.05 P.M. ON SUNDAY (APRIL 1).

THE FILM, ENTITLED +HONG KONG SCENIC SPOTS+, WILL BE SCREENED AS AN EPISODE OF +COMMON SENSE+, RTHK'S REGULAR WEEKLY PROGRAMME.

THE FILM WILL ALSO BE SHOWN AT AN EXHIBITION OF PRIZE-WINNING ENTRIES TO PHOTOGRAPHIC AND POETRY CONTESTS ORGANISED JOINTLY BY RTHK, THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD IN EDINBURGH PLACE TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AND ON SUNDAY BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 5 P.M. THE FILM WILL ALSO BE SHOWN THERE ON TELEVISION SETS THROUGHOUT THE EXHIBITION.

AT 11 A.M. TOMORROW, PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN TO WINNERS OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC, POETRY AND DANCE CONTESTS BY THE DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MR. DONALD KERR, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR. EDWARD NICHOLS, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MR. STUART WILKINSON, AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR. JOHNNIE JOHNSTON.

OTHERS INVITED TO GIVE PRIZES ARE MRS. YUEN KANG-CHUEN, MRS. CHRISTINE LIAO, MISS JEAN WONG AND MR. CHAN SHU-KWAI, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER OF KA WAH BANK LTD.

FILM CREWS SPENT SEVERAL MONTHS PRODUCING THE +HONG KONG SCENIC SPOTS+, AND MANY BREATHTAKING SCENERIES IN HONG KONG ARE COVERED IN THE FILM. HIGHLIGHTS ARE THE FUNG WONG SHAN AT SUNRISE, THE TAI NG WATERFALLS, THE ROCK CAVE AT TIU CHUNG CHAU, TAI LONG WEST BAY WITH ITS ROLLING WAVES, AND THE PICTURESQUE PAT SIN RANGE OLD VILLAGE. BALLET, THE WINNING PHOTOGRAPHS AND POEMS ALSO FEATURE IN THE FILM. THE LEADING ROLES IN THE EPISODE ARE PLAYED BY CHOREOGRAPHER MR. LAU SIU-MING AND MISS YUEN LAI-WAH. EACH SCENIC SPOT IS DESCRIBED IN VERSES COMPOSED BY MR. SO MAN-CHOK, SENIOR LECTURER IN CHINESE AT THE THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

THE MUSIC IS COMPOSED AND PLAYED BY WELL KNOWN PIANIST MR. ALFRED LEE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A RTHK FILM ON HONG KONG'S SCENIC SPOTS WILL BE SHOWN ON TELEVISION SETS AT AN EXHIBITION OF PRIZE-WINNING ENTRIES TO PHOTOGRAPHIC AND POETRY CONTESTS AT EDINBURGH PLACE TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AND ON SUNDAY BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 5 P.M.

/AT 11 A.M.

AT 11 A.M. TOMORROW, WINNERS OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC, POETRY AND DANCE CONTESTS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH PRIZES BY THE DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MR. DONALD KERR, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR. EDWARD NICHOLS, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MR. STUART WILKINSON, AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR. JOHNNIE JOHNSTON.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION AND PRESENTATION OF PRIZES AT 11 A.M. TOMORROW AT EDINBURGH PLACE.

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REGIONAL SEMINAR ON THE GSP
FOR ASIAN COUNTRIES
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A GSP EXPERT FROM THE TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT WILL REPRESENT HONG KONG IN THE REGIONAL SEMINAR ON THE GENERALISED SCHEMES OF PREFERENCES FOR ASIAN COUNTRIES JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD) AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI, INDIA DURING APRIL 2 - 12.

THE SEMINAR AIMS AT PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OFFICIALS FROM THE PREFERENCE-RECEIVING COUNTRIES IN ASIA TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE DIFFERENT SCHEMES OF PREFERENCES AND TO EXAMINE AND DISCUSS SPECIFIC TOPICS REGARDING THE WAYS AND MEANS FOR ENSURING THE FULLER UTILISATION OF THE VARIOUS GENERALISED SCHEMES OF PREFERENCES.

HONG KONG IS INCLUDED AS BENEFICIARY IN NINE DIFFERENT GENERALISED SCHEMES OF PREFERENCES OPERATED BY 17 COUNTRIES. THESE ARE AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, CANADA, THE NINE MEMBERS OF THE EEC, JAPAN, NEW ZEALAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND AND THE U.S.A.

HONG KONG HAS BEEN CERTIFYING GSP EXPORTS SINCE JULY 1971 WHEN THE EEC GSP WAS INTRODUCED. IN 1978, ABOUT 21 PER CENT BY VALUE OF OUR TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS ARE COVERED BY FORMS A ISSUED UNDER THE VARIOUS GENERALISED SCHEMES OF PREFERENCES. OF THESE GSP EXPORTS, 38 PER CENT WENT TO THE U.S.A. AND 45 PER CENT TO THE EEC COUNTRIES.

MR. P.C. LEUNG, PRINCIPAL TRADE OFFICER OF THE CERTIFICATION BRANCH OF THE TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT WILL LEAVE HONG KONG ON SUNDAY, APRIL 1, TO ATTEND THIS SEMINAR.

HE SAID THAT HE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO OBTAIN MORE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE VARIOUS GSP'S AND TO DISCUSS WITH PARTICIPANTS FROM OTHER ASIAN PREFERENCE-RECEIVING COUNTRIES THE PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GSPS IN THE SEMINAR.

MR. LEUNG WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON APRIL 13.

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REVISED IMPORT/EXPORT DECLARATION AND EXPORT LICENCE FORMS

THE TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT WILL INTRODUCE A REVISED IMPORT DECLARATION FORM 1 (TIC 281), EXPORT DECLARATION FORM 2 (TIC 418), EXPORT DECLARATION FORM 3 (TIC 418A) AND EXPORT LICENCE FORM 6 (TIC 394 REV.) WITH EFFECT FROM MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1979.

THE REVISED FORMS HAVE BEEN SIMPLIFIED AND ARE ALIGNED IN FORMAT. THE REVISED IMPORT DECLARATION FORM 1 AND THE EXPORT DECLARATION FORMS 2 AND 3 WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING IMPORT DECLARATION FORM 1 AND EXPORT DECLARATION FORMS 2 AND 3 RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE REVISED EXPORT LICENCE FORM 6 WILL REPLACE BOTH THE EXISTING EXPORT LICENCE FORMS 6 AND 7.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE TO ACCEPT THE EXISTING FORMS UNTIL STOCKS ARE EXHAUSTED.

THE REVISED FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:-

- * GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE,
GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR,
CONNAUGHT PLACE,
HONG KONG- OR
- * TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT,
ACCOUNTS OFFICE,
OCEAN CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,
CANTON ROAD,
KOWLOON- OR
- * TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT,
HONG KONG SUB-OFFICE,
46 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, GROUND FLOOR,
HONG KONG.

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67 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED LAST MONTH

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A TOTAL OF 67 NEW BUILDING PLANS WAS APPROVED LAST (FEBRUARY) MONTH BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, COMPARED WITH 51 IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

OF THOSE APPROVED, 26 WERE FOR BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 23 FOR KOWLOON AND 18 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDED SEVERAL FACTORY BUILDINGS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, A HOTEL BUILDING IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, A CHURCH AND SCHOOL BUILDING IN SHUI PIN TSUEN, YUEN LONG, AND A NUMBER OF APARTMENT-COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS \$107.95 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$376.45 MILLION LAST YEAR.

THE USABLE FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED LAST MONTH TOTALLED 101,947.5 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 67,283.8 SQUARE METRES OF NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 34,663.7 SQUARE METRES OF DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 47 NEW PROJECTS, INCLUDING A LANGUAGE CENTRE FOR THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, A BUDDHIST TEMPLE IN TEI TONG TSAI, LANTAU ISLAND, A SEA WATER PUMP HOUSE IN CANTON ROAD AND AN L.P.G. STORAGE TANK AND VAPORISING PLANT ROOM IN TSUEN WAN.

A TOTAL OF 34 NEWLY COMPLETED BUILDINGS WAS CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION DURING THE MONTH, INCLUDING A KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION BUILDING IN TUNG LO WAN ROAD, A HOSPITAL EXTENSION TO THE BAPTIST HOSPITAL IN WATERLOO ROAD AND A FEW FACTORY BUILDINGS.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO ASSENTED TO THE DEMOLITION OF 90 BUILDINGS.

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SURVEY ON QUALITY OF TECHNICAL INSTITUTE COURSES
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INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARDS AND EMPLOYERS IN GENERAL FEEL THAT THE COURSES OFFERED BY TECHNICAL INSTITUTES ARE GENERALLY RELEVANT TO THE ACTUAL NEEDS OF INDUSTRY, ACCORDING TO THE FINDINGS OF A RECENT SURVEY.

THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED LAST AUGUST BY THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL TRAINING IN INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL TO GAUGE THE PRACTICABILITY OF COURSES RUN BY TECHNICAL INSTITUTES FOR EMPLOYEES IN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

RESPONDENTS TO THE SURVEY ALSO FEEL THAT AN EMPLOYEE WHO HAS ATTENDED A TECHNICAL INSTITUTE COURSE IS MORE USEFUL TO THE EMPLOYER THAN ONE WHO HAS NOT.

INDUSTRIES INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY ARE AUTOMOBILE REPAIRS AND SERVICING, BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING, CLOTHING, ELECTRICAL, ELECTRONICS, MACHINE SHOP AND METAL WORKING, PLASTICS, PRINTING, SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP REPAIRS, TEXTILE AND HOTEL.

EIGHT OUT OF 10 INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARDS APPROACHED BY THE COMMITTEE GAVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE ISSUE WHILE SOME 850 OUT OF 1,000 EMPLOYERS RETURNED THE QUESTIONAIRES.

BASED ON THE RETURNED QUESTIONAIRES, 87.5 PER CENT OF THE EMPLOYERS AGREE THAT THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE COURSES ARE RELATED TO THE ACTUAL NEEDS OF INDUSTRY WHILE 80.3 PER CENT FEEL THAT AN EMPLOYEE WHO HAS ATTENDED A TECHNICAL INSTITUTE COURSE IS MORE USEFUL THAN AN EMPLOYEE WHO HAS NOT ATTENDED SUCH A COURSE.

THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL TRAINING IN INSTITUTIONS COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, THE TWO UNIVERSITIES, THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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MAIL DELAY

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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT OWING TO INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY POSTAL STAFF IN LONDON, CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM GREAT BRITAIN MAY BE SUBJECTED TO DELAY.

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MAXICAB ROUTE NO. 14 TO OPERATE
BETWEEN WAN CHAI FERRY AND PURVES ROAD

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MAXICAB ROUTE NO. 14 FROM MONDAY (APRIL 2) WILL BE REVISED TO OPERATE BETWEEN WAN CHAI FERRY AND PURVES ROAD INSTEAD OF OPERATING BETWEEN CAUSEWAY BAY AND PURVES ROAD.

THE ROUTE FROM WAN CHAI FERRY TO PURVES ROAD WILL BE VIA FLEMING ROAD, WAN CHAI ROAD, MORRISON HILL ROAD, LEIGHTON ROAD, HYSAN AVENUE, SUNNING ROAD, LEIGHTON ROAD, PENNINGTON STREET, KESWICK STREET, LEIGHTON ROAD, CAROLINE HILL ROAD, LINK ROAD, BROADWOOD ROAD, TAI HANG ROAD, PERKINS ROAD, CREASY ROAD, COOPER ROAD AND WILSON ROAD.

THE ROUTE FROM PURVES ROAD TO WAN CHAI FERRY WILL BE VIA PERKINS ROAD, MOORSOM ROAD, BOYCE ROAD, MOORSOM ROAD, PERKINS ROAD, TAI HANG ROAD, BROADWOOD ROAD, LINK ROAD, CAROLINE HILL ROAD, LEIGHTON ROAD, PENNINGTON STREET, YEE WO STREET, HENNESSY ROAD AND FLEMING ROAD.

FOUR MAXICABS WILL SERVICE THIS ROUTE FROM 7.06 A.M. TO 10.54 P.M. ON PEAK FREQUENCIES OF 12 MINUTES AND OFF-PEAK FREQUENCIES OF 20 MINUTES.

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