



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONEY SUPPLY AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS FOR JANUARY

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THE MONEY SUPPLY AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 1980 WERE PUBLISHED TODAY.

THEY SHOW SHARP RISES DURING THE MONTH IN THE MONEY SUPPLY AND IN TOTAL CREDIT TO THE ECONOMY- BUT THESE RISES PROBABLY REFLECT SPECIAL SEASONAL AND OTHER FACTORS MORE THAN ANY UNDERLYING EXPANSION.

FIRST, THERE IS ALWAYS A SUBSTANTIAL DEMAND FOR CREDIT IN THE WEEKS BEFORE LUNAR NEW YEAR, FOR SUCH ITEMS AS THE SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS AND THE PAYMENT OF ANNUAL BONUSES.

A SECOND SEASONAL FACTOR IS THE INCIDENCE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF PAYMENTS OF PROFITS TAX AND SALARIES TAX: THERE IS LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN SOME DEMAND FOR CREDIT IN JANUARY TO ENABLE TAXPAYERS TO MAKE THOSE PAYMENTS.

THERE WAS ALSO, IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, A SMALL AMOUNT OF BORROWING FROM BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES BY PURCHASERS OF THE FIRST FLATS TO BE OCCUPIED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME.

ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN JANUARY WAS A SUBSTANTIAL VOLUME OF +ROUND-TRIPPING+, CAUSED BY THE VERY HIGH MONEY MARKET RATES IN THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO LUNAR NEW YEAR. ROUND-TRIPPING IS A FORM OF INTEREST RATE ARBITRAGE, WHICH INVOLVES A CUSTOMER DRAWING DOWN AN OVERDRAFT FACILITY OR A LINE OF CREDIT WITH A BANK OR DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY, ON WHICH INTEREST IS CHARGED AT PRIME RATE, OR A RATE LINKED TO PRIME RATE- THE SUM BORROWED IS THEN DEPOSITED, NORMALLY WITH A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY, AT A HIGHER MARKET RATE OF INTEREST.

MONEY SUPPLY

THE MONEY SUPPLY ON THE NARROWEST DEFINITION (M1) (NOTES AND COINS WITH THE PUBLIC, PLUS DEMAND DEPOSITS, OTHER THAN FROM BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (DTCS), WITH LICENSED BANKS) ROSE BY 1.8 PER CENT IN JANUARY, WELL DOWN FROM THE DECEMBER INCREASE OF 4.1 PER CENT. THOUGH THE VOLUME OF NOTES IN ISSUE ROSE IN JANUARY, WITH THE LUNAR NEW YEAR NOT UNTIL MID-FEBRUARY MOST OF THOSE NOTES WERE STILL IN BANKS' TILLS AT THE END OF JANUARY.

M2, WHICH IS DEFINED AS M1 PLUS SAVINGS AND TIME DEPOSITS (OTHER THAN FROM BANKS AND DTCS) WITH LICENSED BANKS, ROSE IN JANUARY BY 2.9 PER CENT, SLIGHTLY DOWN FROM THE DECEMBER INCREASE OF 3.2 PER CENT. TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH BANKS ROSE BY 3.1 PER CENT IN THE MONTH.

M3, WHICH CONSISTS OF M2 PLUS PUBLIC DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, ROSE IN JANUARY BY 5.3 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH A 4.1 PER CENT INCREASE IN DECEMBER. THE JANUARY FIGURE REFLECTS A RISE OF 12.7 PER CENT IN DEPOSITS WITH DTCS, CAUSED TO A LARGE EXTENT BY THE ROUND-TRIPPING DURING THE MONTH.

CREDIT TO

CREDIT TO THE ECONOMY

BANK LOANS IN HONG KONG ROSE BY 6.4 PER CENT (\$4 BILLIONS) IN JANUARY, AGAINST A 6.1 PER CENT INCREASE IN DECEMBER. THE JANUARY INCREASE INCLUDES A RISE OF \$2.1 BILLIONS IN DRAWINGS ON OVERDRAFT FACILITIES- PART AT LEAST OF THESE DRAWINGS REFLECTS ROUND-TRIPPING IN THE MONTH.

LOANS IN HONG KONG BY DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE BY 7.3 PER CENT IN JANUARY, AS COMPARED WITH 3.7 PER CENT IN DECEMBER.

TOTAL LOANS IN HONG KONG ROSE IN JANUARY BY 6.6 PER CENT, A LITTLE UP ON THE DECEMBER RISE OF 5.7 PER CENT.

LOANS ABROAD

THE TOTAL OF LOANS ABROAD FELL IN JANUARY, WITH BANK LOANS DOWN BY \$73 MILLIONS TO \$20 705 MILLIONS, AND LOANS BY DTCS DECLINING BY \$1 588 MILLIONS TO \$23 190 MILLIONS.

BALANCE SHEET RATIOS

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO FOR ALL BANKS WAS 53.6 PER CENT IN JANUARY, AGAINST 48.0 PER CENT IN DECEMBER. THIS INCREASE IS DISTORTED BY THE AMENDMENT, WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 1980, OF THE LIST OF SPECIFIED LIQUID ASSETS FOR BANKS AND THE DEFINITION OF DEPOSIT LIABILITIES FOR BANKS: BOTH AMENDMENTS TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CHANGING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES. BANKS' LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIOS ROSE TO 94.5 PER CENT IN JANUARY, REFLECTING THE DEMAND FOR BANK CREDIT IN THE MONTH.

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO FOR ALL DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WAS 49.0 PER CENT IN JANUARY. THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT FOR THESE COMPANIES TO OBSERVE A MINIMUM LIQUID ASSETS RATIO CAME INTO FORCE ON JANUARY 1, 1980, SO NO COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS MONTHS ARE AVAILABLE. THE LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO FOR ALL DTCS FELL IN JANUARY TO 52.7 PER CENT, FROM 55.4 PER CENT, REFLECTING THE VERY SHARP RISE IN THEIR DEPOSITS.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING BANKS ROSE FROM 105 TO 106 AT THE END OF JANUARY 1980. THREE MORE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES BEGAN TO REPORT DURING THE MONTH, BRINGING THEIR TOTAL TO 272.

THE DETAILED FIGURES FOR JANUARY 1980, AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS, ARE SET OUT IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE. THE COMPARISONS WITH JANUARY 1979 ARE DISTORTED BY THE EARLIER DATE OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR IN THAT YEAR (28 - 31 JANUARY).

FIGURES FOR EARLIER MONTHS
IN \$MILLION (% CHANGE)

	JANUARY 1980	DECEMBER 1979	OCTOBER 1979	JANUARY 1979
M1	21 226	20 851 (+1.8%)*	19 692 (+7.8%)*	20 816 (+2.0%)*
M2	77 436	75 270 (+2.9%)*	70 844 (+9.3%)*	67 821 (+14.2%)*
M3	105 032	99 765 (+5.3%)	93 596 (+12.2%)	79 762 (+31.7%)
BANKS -				
DEPOSITS	70 063	67 985 (+3.1%)*	64 085 (+9.3%)*	59 754 (+17.3%)*
LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG	66 223	62 227 (+6.4%)*	57 773 (+14.6%)*	48 376 (+36.9%)*
LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO	94.5%	91.5%*	90.2%*	81.0%*
AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO	53.6%	48.0%	50.1%	45.4%
DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES -				
DEPOSITS	27 596	24 495 (+12.7%)	22 752 (+21.3%)	11 941 (+131.1%)
LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG	14 552	13 566 (+7.3%)	12 281 (+18.5%)	10 113 (+43.9%)
LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO	52.7%	55.4%	54.0%	84.7%
AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO	49.0%			
BANKS AND DEPOSIT- TAKING COMPANIES -				
TOTAL CREDIT TO THE ECONOMY	80 775	75 793 (+6.6%)	70 054 (+15.3%)	58 489 (+38.1%)

/ '* ' DENOTES

'*' DENOTES FIGURES ARE RECALCULATED TO EXCLUDE BANKS' LIABILITIES TO, AND CLAIMS ON, DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

'R' DENOTES THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT FOR DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES TO OBSERVE A MINIMUM LIQUID ASSETS RATIO CAME INTO FORCE ON JANUARY 1, 1980.

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IMPROVED CASH BENEFITS FOR THE DISABLED FROM APRIL 1
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL IMPLEMENT FROM APRIL 1, THIS YEAR TWO FURTHER SOCIAL SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS WHICH WILL FINANCIALLY HELP THE PROFOUNDLY DEAF AND THE PARTIALLY DISABLED TO MEET THEIR SPECIAL NEEDS.

THE DISABILITY ALLOWANCE WILL BE EXTENDED TO COVER THE PROFOUNDLY DEAF, WHILST A DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT WILL BE INTRODUCED UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR THE PARTIALLY DISABLED.

THESE IMPROVEMENTS WILL COST AN ESTIMATED TOTAL OF \$8.9 MILLION IN 1980-81, BENEFITING AN ESTIMATED 3 800 PROFOUNDLY DEAF PEOPLE AND 1 000 PARTIALLY DISABLED PEOPLE.

ANNOUNCING THE DETAILS TODAY (THURSDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE INNOVATIONS ARISE FROM THE WHITE PAPER +SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1980'S+ WHICH OUTLINES THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND SOCIAL SECURITY AND DIRECT WELFARE SERVICES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID BOTH ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE EXTRA SUPPORT, ON TOP OF ANY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS SPECIFICALLY FOR BASIC LIVING, TO THE DISABLED AND THEIR FAMILIES TO MEET SPECIAL NEEDS ARISING OUT OF DISABILITY.

APPLICATIONS CAN NOW BE MADE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS, BUT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE PROCESSING, APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO APPLY IN WRITING, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID AS THE PROFOUNDLY DEAF ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ANOTHER VULNERABLE GROUP IN NEED OF SPECIAL HELP, THEY WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NON-MEANS TESTED DISABILITY ALLOWANCE WHICH IS NOW PAID TO 23 000 SEVERELY DISABLED PERSONS.

PROFOUND DEAFNESS, HE SAID, IS DEFINED AS A HEARING LOSS OF 85 DECIBELS OR MORE, OR OF 75 TO 85 DECIBELS WITH OTHER PHYSICAL HANDICAPS INCLUDING LACK OF SPEECH.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE DISABILITY ALLOWANCE, NOW \$230 A MONTH, IS ONE OF THE TWO TYPES OF ALLOWANCE UNDER THE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES SCHEME - THE OTHER BEING THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE FOR PEOPLE AGED 70 AND OVER.

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AS TO THE DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT FORMS PART OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND WILL BE PAID TO THE PARTIALLY DISABLED WHO ARE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS.

THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY RECEIVING AN OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME OR A SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE AS THESE PAYMENTS ARE INTENDED TO COVER SIMILAR NEEDS, HE SAID.

THE DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT, HE SAID, WILL BE \$115 A MONTH AND WILL BE ADDED TO THE BASIC PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENT.

PARTIAL DISABILITY, HE ADDED, MEANS A 50 PER CENT OR MORE LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY AS DEFINED IN THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, OR A MENTAL OR PHYSICAL CONDITION MEDICALLY CERTIFIED AS BEING BROADLY EQUIVALENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT WILL BRING TO THREE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUPPLEMENTS UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME TO MEET SPECIAL NEEDS.

THE OTHER TWO, IMPLEMENTED IN 1978, ARE THE MONTHLY OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS AGED 60 AND OVER, AND THE ANNUAL LONG-TERM SUPPLEMENT TO REPLACE ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS FOR THOSE RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR 12 MONTHS OR MORE, HE SAID.

FOR ANYONE DISSATISFIED WITH OFFICIAL DECISIONS ON SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS, INCLUDING ELIGIBILITY AND PAYMENTS, AN INDEPENDENT APPEAL BOARD IS AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE A SPEEDY MEANS OF REDRESS, HE ADDED.

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VALUATION LISTS FOR EIGHT NT RATING AREAS DECLARED
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THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION, MR R A FRY TODAY (THURSDAY) DECLARED THE VALUATION LISTS FOR EIGHT AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHICH WERE SPECIFIED FOR RATING LAST JUNE.

THE LISTS WERE THEN HANDED OVER TO THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES, MR G D EDEN IN HIS CAPACITY AS COLLECTOR OF RATES.

RATES WILL BE CHARGED BY THE COLLECTOR BASED ON THESE VALUATION LISTS EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1, 1980.

THE LISTS DECLARED BY THE COMMISSIONER CONTAIN SOME 6 500 ASSESSMENTS WITH A TOTAL RATEABLE VALUE OF ABOUT \$45 MILLION. THEY ARE IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

AREA P	CHEUNG CHAU,
AREA Q	PENG CHAU,
AREA R	LANTAU AND MA WAN ISLANDS,
AREA S	LAMMA ISLAND,

- AREA D2 AN AREA NORTH OF TSUEN WAN
AROUND CHUEN LUNG,
- AREA J4 AN AREA ALONG SHA TAU KOK
ROAD INCLUDING LOI TUNG,
AND
- AREAS N4 AND N5 HO CHUNG AND TAI MONG TSAI,
BOTH IN SAI KUNG DISTRICT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE DECLARATION OF THESE LISTS MARKED THE COMPLETION OF THE CURRENT PROGRAMME OF EXTENDING RATING TO THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, A PROGRAMME WHICH WAS STARTED IN 1973.

HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT FURTHER EXTENSIONS OF THE RATING AREAS ARE LIKELY AS DEVELOPMENT SPREADS TO PLACES OUTSIDE THE CURRENTLY SPECIFIED AREAS.

AFTER THEY ARE DECLARED, THE VALUATION LISTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY THE PUBLIC AT THE TREASURY (ROOM 202, HANG CHONG BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR, 5 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG) FOR 21 DAYS FROM SATURDAY (MARCH 8). COPIES OF THE RELEVANT LISTS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE APPROPRIATE DISTRICT OFFICES.

ANYONE AGGRIEVED ON ANY OF THE GROUNDS LAID DOWN IN THE RATING ORDINANCE MAY, DURING THIS 21-DAY PERIOD, SERVE A PROPOSAL IN THE SPECIFIED FORM ON THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION FOR THE ALTERATION OF THE CONCERNED VALUATION LIST.

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HONG KONG JOINS WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY * * * *

HONG KONG HAS A SPECIFIC OBLIGATION TO DO ITS BEST TO PRESERVE ITS WILDLIFE WHETHER ANIMAL, VEGETABLE OR MARINE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

ANOTHER OBLIGATION, INTERNATIONALLY, HE SAID, WAS TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY.

AS SIR MURRAY COMMENDED TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY ITS SUPPORT TO THE STRATEGY, HRH PRINCE PHILIP IN LONDON AND LEADERS IN 35 COUNTRIES INCLUDING CHINA SIMULTANEOUSLY ENDORSED THE AIMS OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

THE WORLDWIDE STRATEGY WAS ORGANISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (IUCN), UNDER THE JOINT SPONSORSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME (UNEP) AND THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND (WWF). DURING THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY AT THE HILTON HOTEL, THE ORGANISING CHAIRMAN, SIR KENNETH FUNG PING-FAN, ANNOUNCED THE PROPOSED FORMATION LATER THIS YEAR OF A HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND.

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AT THE GATHERING OF LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, CONSERVATIONISTS AND SCIENTISTS TODAY, SIR MURRAY SAID THAT MORE OR LESS EVERYONE FAVOURED THE CONSERVATION OF WORLD WILDLIFE, BUT ADDED: +THE PROBLEM IS WHAT ANYONE IS PREPARED TO DO ABOUT IT.+

+HUMAN COMMUNITIES ARE GRADUALLY AND SHAKILY ACCEPTING THE NECESSITY FOR MUTUAL CONCESSIONS TO AVOID THEIR OWN ANNIHILATION BY WAR, STARVATION AND DISEASE. BUT IN PRACTICE THEY ARE VERY FAR FROM ACCEPTING THAT CONCESSIONS TO LIVING WITH THE WORLD OF NATURE MUST BE MADE IF BEAUTY AND INTEREST ARE NOT TO BE LOST AND INDEED THE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE ON WHICH LIFE ON THIS PLANET DEPENDS.

+IT IS TO STIR THE WORLD TO REALISATION OF THIS DANGER THAT THE WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY IS BEING LAUNCHED,+ SAID SIR MURRAY.

IN RELATION TO HONG KONG'S OBLIGATIONS, HE SAID ATTEMPTS TO DO SO LOCALLY WOULD ENCOUNTER +EXCEPTIONAL CONTRARY PRESSURES.+

THE DENSITY OF POPULATION AND ITS VERY RAPID INCREASE INEVITABLY COMPETE WITH ALL FORMS OF WILDLIFE FOR USE OF THE VERY LIMITED LAND AND WATER.

+MOREOVER,+ HE SAID, +THERE IS THE IMPERATIVE NEED FOR THIS RAPIDLY INCREASING POPULATION TO EARN ITS LIVING AND MAINTAIN ITSELF IN A TERRITORY TOTALLY DEVOID OF NATURAL RESOURCES OTHER THAN ITS PEOPLE AND ITS HARBOUR.+

SIR MURRAY SAID IT WAS OUR DUTY TO RECONCILE THESE CONFLICTING OBLIGATIONS.

HONG KONG WAS ONLY A TINY ISLAND IN THE VAST LAND MASS OF EAST ASIA AND ITS WILDLIFE +ONLY A MICROSCOPIC PART.+

+BUT,+ SIR MURRAY SAID, +IT IS A PART WHICH IS FASCINATING, BEAUTIFUL AND ACCESSIBLE, AND IS TO BE TREASURED.+

ON CONSERVATION MATTERS, SIR MURRAY CITED THE COUNTRY PARKS DEVELOPMENT AND LEGISLATION INVOLVING THE TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF FLORA AND FAUNA.

+IMPORTANT THOUGH OUR OWN CONTROL MEASURES ARE, THEY ARE BUT ONE TINY PART OF THE STRATEGY REQUIRED FOR GLOBAL CONSERVATION. THE UNDERLYING CONCEPTS OF THE STRATEGY ARE NOT NEW, BUT THEIR APPLICATION ON THIS SCALE IS, AND THEIR SUCCESS REQUIRES THE COMBINED CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

+FOR INSTANCE, THE STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, MAKES OUR EFFORTS IN HONG KONG MORE INFINITELY WORTHWHILE,+ SAID SIR MURRAY.

HE ADDED THAT EVERYWHERE LEGISLATION WAS ESSENTIAL, BUT MORE IMPORTANT WAS POLICING AND EDUCATION IN THE PRINCIPLES OF CONSERVATION.

A REPLY TO SIR MURRAY'S SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS WHICH THE STRATEGY SOUGHT TO ACHIEVE WAS MADE BY MARINE BIOLOGIST, DR SYLVIA EARLE, A TRUSTEE OF THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND INTERNATIONAL.

PILOT LAND CENSUS BEGINS TOMORROW

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THE PILOT LAND POPULATION CENSUS WILL BE HELD BETWEEN TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AND MARCH 16 (SUNDAY) DURING WHICH ABOUT 20 000 HOUSEHOLDS IN VARIOUS TYPES OF LIVING QUARTERS IN 11 DISTRICTS WILL BE VISITED BY ENUMERATORS FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THESE HOUSEHOLDS SHOULD HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED A NOTIFICATION LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT IF THEIR ADDRESS CAN BE REACHED BY POST.

ALL ENUMERATORS WILL BE CARRYING A RED SACHEL AND WILL IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WITH A YELLOW CENSUS IDENTITY CARD BEARING THEIR NAME AND PHOTOGRAPH. ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAS DOUBTS ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON CALLING ON HIM FOR AN INTERVIEW FOR THE PILOT CENSUS CAN TELEPHONE THE DEPARTMENT AT 5-439189.

THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT CALLED ON THESE HOUSEHOLDS TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE ENUMERATORS BY PROVIDING THEM WITH FULL AND ACCURATE ANSWERS TO ALL CENSUS QUESTIONS.

HE REITERATED THAT ANY INFORMATION THEY SUPPLY WILL BE TREATED AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. THE ENUMERATORS ARE UNDER OATH NOT TO DISCLOSE THE INFORMATION TO ANY PERSON OR ORGANISATION OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT, AND THE DATA WILL BE PROCESSED BY COMPUTER AND ANALYSED IN AGGREGATED FORM.

THE 20 000 HOUSEHOLDS ARE RANDOMLY SELECTED FOR THE PILOT CENSUS, AND THEY WILL BE ASKED TO GIVE A FEW BASIC DETAILS, SUCH AS AGE, SEX AND RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD FOR EACH OF THEIR MEMBERS. ONE OUT OF FIVE OF THEM WILL BE ASKED TO GIVE FUTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS EDUCATION AND TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT, OCCUPATION AND EARNINGS, INTERNAL MOVEMENT, AND DISABLEMENT.

THE PILOT CENSUS AS WELL AS THE PILOT CENSUS FOR THE MARINE POPULATION HELD LAST MONTH ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE PREPARATION FOR THE MAIN POPULATION CENSUS TO BE CONDUCTED IN MARCH NEXT YEAR.

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GARDENS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE TO BE OPEN TO PUBLIC

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THE GARDENS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON MARCH 9 (SUNDAY) FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM TO ENABLE PEOPLE TO SEE THE AZALEAS IN BLOOM.

THE ANNUAL OPEN DAY HAS BEEN HELD SINCE 1968 EXCEPT LAST YEAR WHEN GOVERNMENT HOUSE WAS UNDER RENOVATION.

MORE THAN 100 000 PEOPLE VISITED THE GARDENS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE IN 1978 AND LARGE CROWDS ARE EXPECTED THIS YEAR.

WHEN VISITING GOVERNMENT HOUSE, VISITORS ARE REQUESTED TO ENTER BY THE MAIN GATE AND LEAVE BY THE SIDE GATES SO THAT ALL CAN ENJOY THE FLOWERS WITHOUT CAUSING INCONVENIENCE TO OTHERS.

THEY ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT ONLY THE GARDENS WILL BE OPEN AND THEY SHOULD NOT ENTER THE HOUSE ITSELF.

SCOUTS AND POLICE OFFICERS WILL BE PRESENT AND VISITORS ARE ASKED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THEM TO AVOID OVERCROWDING.

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HINTS ON FIRE PREVENTION

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FIRE PROTECTION AND FIRE PREVENTION ARE AFTER ALL ONLY BASIC COMMON SENSE AND ARE RELATIVELY EASY TO ADMINISTER, THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER OF KOWLOON, MR FRED JACKSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON MR JACKSON SAID: +THE CLOSING OF DOORS AND WINDOWS, REMOVAL OF ELECTRICAL PLUGS FROM SOCKETS, EXITS AND GANGWAYS CLEAR, SMOKE LOBBY DOORS CLOSED AND STAIRCASES CLEAR TO ROOF OR GROUND FLOOR ALL MAKE FOR A SAFER SOCIETY.+

HE CALLED ON THOSE PRESENT TO BE RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE AND DO THEIR SHARE TO HELP REDUCE THE DREADFUL TOLL OF LIVES AND PROPERTY CAUSED BY FIRES.

+THERE WERE MORE THAN 13 000 FIRES IN HONG KONG LAST YEAR RESULTING IN SOME 45 DEATHS TO SAY NOTHING OF THE DREADFUL INJURIES SUFFERED BY MANY. A TOTAL OF 768 PERSONS WERE INJURED INCLUDING 86 MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE WHO PHYSICALLY RESCUED 874 PERSONS,+ HE SAID.

+IN 1978,+ HE CONTINUED, +ALMOST 11 000 FIRES CAUSED IN EXCESS OF \$113 MILLION AND I SPEAK NOW OF DIRECT FIRE LOSS, NOT THE INDIRECT LOSS CAUSED BY LOSS OF BUSINESS, LOSS OF ORDERS, LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD.+

MR JACKSON ALSO ASKED THE AUDIENCE, + I SEE THE PRICE OF A NEW ROLLS-ROYCE OR MERCEDES IS \$300 000 WHILST POSSIBLY NOT EVERY ONE HERE HAS A CAR IN THAT BRACKET DO YOU HAVE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER IN YOUR CAR?+

+I GUARANTEE THAT VERY FEW HAVE,+ HE SAID.

+THE POINT I MAKE IS THAT PEOPLE PAY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR PRESTIGIOUS TRANSPORT AND FORGET TO, OR WILL NOT PAY \$200 FOR A FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

+THERE WERE 691 VEHICLE FIRES IN HONG KONG LAST YEAR AND A GREAT DEAL OF THEM COULD HAVE BEEN PUT OUT IN THEIR INCIPIENT STAGES BY THE DRIVERS IF THEY HAD FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND MORE IMPORTANT KNEW HOW TO OPERATE THEM,+ HE SAID.

ALSO ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE, MR JACKSON ASKED: +THERE MUST BE QUITE A FEW OF YOU HERE TODAY WHO HAVE YOUR OWN COMPANIES- CAN I ASK YOU, DO YOU HAVE A STAFF EVACUATION DRILL, IF NOT, WHY NOT?

+IT MAY SAVE YOUR BUSINESS, YOUR LIVES, WHO KNOWS?+ HE ADDED.

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REGIONAL MEETINGS FOR CAREERS TEACHERS

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AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CAREERS TEACHERS TO MEET AND EXCHANGE VIEWS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS LATER THIS MONTH.

+A SERIES OF SIX MEETINGS HAVE BEEN ORGANISED AT REGIONAL CENTRES ON HONG KONG ISLAND, IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ SAID MISS ROSE LAU, CAREERS OFFICER OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WHO IS ALSO THE SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

THESE REGIONAL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT CARMEL ENGLISH SCHOOL, HO MAN TIN, (MARCH 17, 3 PM)- KAU YAN COLLEGE, HONG KONG (MARCH 18, 3 PM)- DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL, MONG KOK, (MARCH 19, 3 PM)- BUDDHIST SIN TAK COLLEGE, KWAI CHUNG (MARCH 20, 3 PM)- CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SCHOOL, NORTH POINT (MARCH 21, 3 PM) AND LA SALLE COLLEGE, KOWLOON (MARCH 22, 10 AM).

MISS LAU EXPLAINED THAT THE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN ORGANISED TO ENABLE CAREERS TEACHERS TO GET ACQUAINTED AND EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES ON GUIDANCE AND OBTAIN INFORMATION ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

OTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSIONS AT THESE MEETINGS WILL INCLUDE THE DUTY LIST OF CAREERS TEACHER AND THE ANNUAL CAREERS MASTERS' SEMINAR ON MARCH 26 FOLLOWING THE SERIES OF REGIONAL MEETINGS.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CANAL ROAD FLYOVERS

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THE DOWN-RAMP OF CANAL ROAD EAST FLYOVER AND THE UP-RAMP OF CANAL ROAD WEST FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC AGAIN BETWEEN 1.30 AM AND 6 AM ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (MARCH 8 AND 9) TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CANAL ROAD FLYOVER.

DURING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE, HONG KONG-BOUND BUSES ON CROSS HARBOUR ROUTES 121 AND 122 WILL BE DIVERTED VIA VICTORIA PARK ROAD, GLOUCESTER ROAD, PERCIVAL STREET, LEIGHTON ROAD, WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD, MORRISON HILL ROAD AND THEN BACK TO THEIR ORIGINAL ROUTING.

KOWLOON-BOUND BUSES FROM MORRISON HILL ROAD ONWARDS WILL BE DIVERTED VIA LEIGHTON ROAD, PENNINGTON STREET, YEE WO STREET, CAUSEWAY ROAD, HING FAT STREET, VICTORIA PARK ROAD AND GLOUCESTER ROAD TO GO TO THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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GOVERNOR OFFICIATES AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The following is the full text of speech by the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose at the launching of the World Conservation Strategy at the Hilton Hotel today (Thursday).

Today the World Conservation Strategy is launched not only here in Hong Kong, but in 35 countries around the world. We are honoured that the World Wildlife Fund's representative, Dr Sylvia Earle, should be in Hong Kong for this occasion.

More or less everyone favours the conservation of world WILDLIFE, but the problem is what anyone is prepared to do about it. Human communities are gradually and shakily accepting the necessity for mutual concessions to avoid their own annihilation by war, starvation or disease. But in practice they are very far from accepting that concessions to living with the world of nature must be made if beauty and interest are not to be lost and indeed the ecological balance on which life on this planet depends. It is to stir the world to realisation of this danger that the World Conservation Strategy is being launched.

/Every community

Every community must consider what contribution it can make. In Hong Kong we have two specific obligations: locally to do our best to preserve Hong Kong's own wildlife whether animal, vegetable or marine; and internationally to make our contribution to the World Conservation Strategy.

We have to face the fact that our attempts to do this in Hong Kong encounter exceptional contrary pressures. The density of population and its very rapid increase inevitably compete with all forms of wildlife for use of the very limited land and water. Moreover there is the imperative need for this rapidly increasing population to earn its living and maintain itself in a territory totally devoid of natural resources other than its people and its harbour. It is our duty to reconcile these conflicting obligations within Hong Kong for the benefit of our people and because of our international obligations. Hong Kong is only a tiny island in the vast land mass of East Asia of which our wildlife is only a microscopic part. But it is a part which is fascinating, beautiful and accessible, and is to be treasured.

Domestically, in addition to increasing control of pollution the most significant act of preservation has been the establishment of country parks covering 40% of the territory, with a staff which will progressively be trained both to preserve wildlife and educate the public both to enjoy it and to co-operate in its preservation. There are also powers to designate for preservation areas of special scientific interest which lie outside the parks themselves. Development within this large area of nearly 200 square miles can only take place after special procedures which ensure that the requirements of preservation are given the weight they deserve.

Internationally we have enacted legislation to give effect to the 1973 Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species. This legislation has pressed hard on trade for souvenirs and luxury products inflated by demand from other countries and tourists. This demand is in excess of the safe yield from the basic natural resources and must be restrained or replaced by the use of other materials; and so far as Hong Kong is concerned increasingly effective action is being taken.

/Important.....

Important though our own control measures are, they are but one tiny part of the strategy required for global conservation. The underlying concepts of the strategy are not new but their application on this scale is, and their success requires the combined co-operative efforts of governments all over the world. For instance the strong support for the World Conservation Strategy of the People's Republic of China, makes our efforts in Hong Kong infinitely more worthwhile. Everywhere legislation is essential, but more important is policing, and education in the principles of conservation.

We are only slowly learning how easily the delicate balance of nature can be disturbed and how quickly its precious beauty can be irreparably despoiled. I commend to the whole community this World Conservation Strategy and confirm Hong Kong's support for the goals it seeks to achieve.