



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1986

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DEFENCE COST AMONG TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION - GOVERNOR
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID THIS (MONDAY) EVENING THAT THE DEFENCE COST AGREEMENT, VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND THE ANNUAL REPORT ON HONG KONG TO PARLIAMENT WOULD BE AMONG THE TOPICS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTERS DURING HIS TRIP TO LONDON.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT HE WOULD BE TALKING WITH MINISTERS IN A PRELIMINARY WAY ABOUT THE DEFENCE COST REVIEW NEXT YEAR.

+AND A PARTICULAR SUBJECT I WOULD WANT TO RAISE THIS TIME, OF COURSE, IS THE INCREASING CONCERN IN HONG KONG ABOUT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND TO ASK MINISTERS HOW THEY'RE GETTING ON WITH THEIR REVIEW OF POLICIES BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THAT SUBJECT,+ HE SAID.

ON THE ANNUAL REVIEW TO PARLIAMENT, SIR EDWARD SAID: +AS YOU KNOW, IT WAS AN UNDERTAKING THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT. SO I WANT TO HAVE A WORD WITH THEM ABOUT THAT AS WELL.+

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WAS EXPECTING TO HAVE A USEFUL REVIEW WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, AND THE FCO MINISTER, MR TIMOTHY RENTON.

+THEY LIKE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING IN HONG KONG AND I LIKE TO MAKE SURE THAT PEOPLE IN LONDON ARE FULLY AWARE OF ALL THE DEVELOPMENTS HERE,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

ASKED ABOUT THE INFLUX OF CHILD ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS DOING ALL IT COULD TO STOP THE ILLEGAL INFLUX.

+IT IS, I THINK, FOR PARENTS ALSO TO RECOGNISE THAT TO TRY TO BRING IN CHILDREN ILLEGALLY IS VERY DANGEROUS TO CHILDREN, AND IT IS NOT IN ANYBODY'S INTERESTS. SO WE'RE DOING ALL WE CAN TO PUT IT TO AN END,+ HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR WAS SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR S.Y.CHUNG, AND THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MISS LYDIA DUNN.

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HK PLAYERS GETTING CHANCE TO BROADEN EXPERIENCE - CS

THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS IS IMPORTANT TO ENABLE LOCAL PLAYERS TO BROADEN THEIR EXPERIENCE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL BOWLS CLASSIC 1986, SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG'S RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS IN SWIMMING, TENNIS, TABLE TENNIS, JUDO, SHOOTING, BOWLING AND LAWN BOWLS HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING.

+FASHIONING ENTHUSIASM INTO EXCELLENCE IS NOT DONE IN A DAY, AND MANY THANKS ARE DUE TO THE GOVERNING BODIES AND COUNTLESS INDIVIDUALS WHO GIVE THEIR TIME IN COACHING, ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION,+ HE SAID.

NOTING THAT MANY MORE LOCAL PLAYERS WERE TAKING PART IN LOCAL COMPETITIONS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

SIR DAVID SAID THIS WAS BEGINNING TO PAVE THE WAY FOR AN EXCITING FUTURE FOR LAWN BOWLS IN HONG KONG.

+THE NUMBER OF LOCAL PLAYERS AND LOCAL LEAGUES AND COMPETITIONS IS INCREASING REFLECTING THE SUCCESS OF THE TRAINING SCHEME ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG LAWN BOWLS ASSOCIATION AND AUGURING WELL FOR THE FUTURE OF LAWN BOWLS IN HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

HONG KONG IS HOST FOR THE FOURTH YEAR IN SUCCESSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOWLS CLASSIC 1986.

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EXPORT-LED GROWTH GATHERS MOMENTUM IN THIRD QUARTER

GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY STRONG SINCE JULY, SO THAT ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986 CONTINUED TO BE EXPORT-LED, ACCORDING TO THE THIRD QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1986 PUBLISHED TODAY.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 23 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986 COMPARED WITH THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1985, FOLLOWING GROWTH RATES OF 1 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND 14 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

THE LATEST FIGURES ON ORDER BOOK POSITIONS, ON RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES AND ON ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION BY THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR SUGGEST THAT A CONTINUED GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS CAN BE EXPECTED.

/AGAINST THE

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AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A STRONG DOMESTIC EXPORT PERFORMANCE AND CONTINUED GROWTH IN DOMESTIC DEMAND IN THE THIRD QUARTER, BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINED FURTHER FROM THEIR ALREADY LOW LEVELS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, SO THAT THE LABOUR FORCE WAS EFFECTIVELY FULLY EMPLOYED. MOREOVER, THIS HAS NOT GENERATED MUCH PRESSURE ON THE GENERAL PRICE LEVEL, AND THE RATE OF INFLATION REMAINED LOW.

DOMESTIC DEMAND, IN RESPECT OF CONSUMPTION AND INVESTMENT, WAS GENERALLY FIRM IN THE THIRD QUARTER. PRIVATE CONSUMPTION DEMAND SHOWED A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT, AS INDICATED BY YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATES IN REAL TERMS OF ABOUT 7 PER CENT IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS AND OF ABOUT 6 PER CENT IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS.

THE LATEST FIGURES ON RETAIL SALES ALSO INDICATE AN INCREASED DEMAND FOR SOME MAJOR CONSUMER ITEMS SUCH AS FOODSTUFFS AND CLOTHING.

AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WAS A REVIVAL IN INVESTMENT DEMAND. REFLECTING THIS, RETAINED IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS GREW BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE THIRD QUARTER, AFTER HAVING RECORDED ZERO GROWTH IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND A DECLINE OF 11 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

OF PARTICULAR NOTE IS THE STRONG RECOVERY IN MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT, AS INDICATED BY A YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE OF ABOUT 23 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

THE REPORT ASSESSES DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986 USING SUCH STATISTICS AS ARE AVAILABLE. IT ALSO UPDATES THE ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMY WHICH WAS GIVEN IN THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT 1986 PUBLISHED IN AUGUST.

APART FROM GIVING AN OVERALL VIEW, THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE LABOUR SECTOR, ACTIVITY IN SELECTED SECTORS, AND PRICES.

ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO ALL MAJOR MARKETS GREW RAPIDLY IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986 COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR. THE GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS PARTICULARLY STRONG IN SUCH MARKETS AS THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND JAPAN, WHERE THE CURRENCY APPRECIATION AGAINST THE HONG KONG DOLLAR HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LARGE.

/DOMESTIC EXPORTS

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA HAVE ALSO RECOVERED SIGNIFICANTLY, SUGGESTING THAT THE EFFECT OF CHINA'S TIGHTENING OF CONTROL SINCE APRIL 1985 OVER ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE SPENDING MAY HAVE LARGELY BEEN ABSORBED.

IN THE THIRD QUARTER, THE ESTIMATED GROWTH RATES IN REAL TERMS OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, JAPAN, CHINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM WERE 51 PER CENT, 28 PER CENT, 32 PER CENT AND 23 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATE FOR THE UNITED STATES WAS LOWER, AT ABOUT 11 PER CENT.

A MAJOR FACTOR BEHIND THE STRONG DOMESTIC EXPORT PERFORMANCE WAS THE IMPROVED DEMAND FOR HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS IN MOST OF THE MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS. ANOTHER CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR WAS THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, IN LINE WITH THAT OF THE U.S. DOLLAR UNDER THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM, AGAINST MOST MAJOR CURRENCIES, WHICH HAS HELPED TO IMPROVE THE PRICE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS.

RE-EXPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 20 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986 OVER THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR. THUS, COMPARED WITH A DECLINE OF 6 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND AN INCREASE OF 5 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER, A STRONG RECOVERY HAS BEEN OBSERVED DURING THE RECENT MONTHS.

THIS WAS ATTRIBUTABLE, IN PART, TO CHINA'S EFFORTS IN PROMOTING ITS EXPORTS, RESULTING IN AN INCREASED VOLUME OF CHINESE EXPORTS BEING CHANNELLED THROUGH HONG KONG TO OVERSEAS MARKETS.

RETAINED IMPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 17 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE THIRD QUARTER, REFLECTING A FIRM DOMESTIC DEMAND AND BUOYANT MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY. A LARGE PART OF THIS INCREASE COMPRISED RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES FOR PRODUCTION. OVERALL IMPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 18 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

THE REPORT INDICATES THAT BECAUSE THE GROWTH RATE IN VALUE TERMS OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS), AT 24 PER CENT, WAS SLOWER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, AT 27 PER CENT, A SMALLER VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS, EQUIVALENT TO 6 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, THAN IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1985, WHEN IT WAS 8 PER CENT.

ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS: FIRST, DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986 THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE U.S. DOLLAR REMAINED STABLE AROUND THE LINKED RATE OF HK\$7.80 TO US\$1. HOWEVER, REFLECTING THE CONTINUED WEAKNESS OF THE U.S. DOLLAR IN THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET, THE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE INDEX OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR FELL BY 1.5 PER CENT OVER THE PERIOD.

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SECOND, THERE WAS REPORTEDLY AN INFLOW OF FUNDS INTO HONG KONG DURING THE THIRD QUARTER. UNDER THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM, THIS HAS RESULTED IN AN EASING OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR INTEREST RATES, A MORE RAPID CREDIT EXPANSION, AND AN ACCELERATION IN THE GROWTH RATES OF THE MONEY SUPPLY.

THIRD, HIGHER INTEREST RATES OFFERED FOR DEPOSITS IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND THE STRENGTH OF SOME MAJOR CURRENCIES HAVE LED TO A LARGER INCREASE IN FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS RELATIVE TO THE INCREASE IN OVERALL DEPOSITS.

FOURTH, IN LINE WITH THE LOWER MONEY MARKET INTEREST RATES, THE HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSIT RATES ADMINISTERED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS WERE REDUCED FURTHER IN MID-AUGUST FROM THEIR ALREADY LOW LEVELS.

ON THE LABOUR SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT INCREASED ECONOMIC ACTIVITY HAS LED TO A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION. IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE, AT 2.8 PER CENT AND 1.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WERE LOWER THAN THE RATES OF 3.0 PER CENT AND 1.9 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, AND OF 3.3 PER CENT AND 2.1 PER CENT IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT CONTINUED TO INCREASE. DURING THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JUNE 1986, EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING AND THE SERVICES SECTORS -- PARTICULARLY THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR AND THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES -- INCREASED, WHILE EMPLOYMENT ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES REMAINED STABLE. LARGE INCREASES IN THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES WERE REPORTED IN MOST SECTORS DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

EARNINGS IN MOST SECTORS, IN TERMS OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED, INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY BOTH IN MONEY TERMS AND IN REAL TERMS IN THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 1986, REFLECTING THE FAVOURABLE EFFECT ON LABOUR INCOMES OF THE IMPROVED ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE. CONSTRUCTION WAGE RATES ALSO INCREASED IN REAL TERMS.

ON THE PROPERTY SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT INCREASED ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND LOWER INTEREST RATES HAVE HELPED TO STIMULATE THE DEMAND FOR PROPERTY. TRADING IN THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET WAS ACTIVE IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986.

PRICES AND RENTALS FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LARGE FLATS, GENERALLY FIRMED UP. THE DEMAND FOR SHOPPING SPACE IN PRIME LOCATIONS HELD FIRM, WHILE THE SUPPLY OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION WAS TIGHT IN SUCH AREAS AS CENTRAL, TSIM SHA TSUI AND AND WAN CHAI.

/THE DEMAND

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THE DEMAND FOR INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY SHOWED SOME INCREASE FOLLOWING THE REVIVAL IN MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY.

ON BUILDING INTENTIONS, THE TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA ON BUILDING PLANS WITH CONSENT TO COMMENCE WORK INCREASED BY 26 PER CENT IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1986 OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, THE INCREASE BEING MOST SIGNIFICANT FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY.

ON PRICES, THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE RATE OF INFLATION REMAINED LOW IN THE THIRD QUARTER, NOTWITHSTANDING SOME ACCELERATION IN THE RATE OF INCREASE IN IMPORT PRICES SINCE THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

AMONG THE FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS LOW INFLATION RATE, AGGREGATE DEMAND IN THE ECONOMY WAS NOT IMPOSING MUCH PRESSURE ON THE GENERAL PRICE LEVEL, WORLD COMMODITY PRICES REMAINED SOFT, AND IMPORT PRICES OF GOODS FROM CHINA FELL.

USING THE CONSUMER PRICE INDICES AS AN INDICATOR, THE YEAR-ON-YEAR RATE OF INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A), AT 2.6 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986, WAS ABOUT THE SAME AS IN THE PREVIOUS TWO QUARTERS.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) WAS ON AVERAGE 3.3 PER CENT HIGHER IN THE THIRD QUARTER, WHILE THE HANG SENG CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WAS 5.5 PER CENT HIGHER. FOR THE FIRST NINE MONTHS AS A WHOLE, THE CORRESPONDING YEAR-ON-YEAR RATES OF INCREASE IN THE THREE CONSUMER PRICE INDICES WERE 2.6 PER CENT, 3.3 PER CENT AND 5.0 PER CENT.

THE THIRD QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1986 IS ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN CONNAUGHT PLACE AT \$12 A COPY.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR OCTOBER
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY PUBLISHED THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR OCTOBER 1986. THE NEW CPI(A) AND NEW CPI(B) (OCTOBER 84-SEPTEMBER 85 = 100) FOR OCTOBER 1986 WERE 104.8 AND 105.2 RESPECTIVELY, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 3.2 PER CENT AND 3.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER OCTOBER 1985.

COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986 AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, THE NEW CPI(A) INCREASED BY 0.2 PER CENT AND THE NEW CPI(B), BY 0.4 PER CENT.

/THE 1979-80-BASED

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THE 1979-80-BASED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) FOR OCTOBER 1986 WERE 165.8 AND 167.7 RESPECTIVELY. COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986, CPI(A) INCREASED BY 0.4 PER CENT AND CPI(B), BY 0.7 PER CENT.

THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER 1986, AT 163.3 AND 164.5 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 2.6 PER CENT AND 3.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER 1985.

PRICE MOVEMENTS DESCRIBED BELOW ARE BASED ON THE NEW CPI SERIES.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED OCTOBER 1986, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NEW CPI(A) INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.1 PER CENT PER MONTH, AND THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NEW CPI(B), AT 0.2 PER CENT PER MONTH.

DURING OCTOBER, SCHOOL FEES, TEXTBOOK PRICES AND RETAIL PRICES OF SALT-WATER FISH, JEWELLERY, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR INCREASED. ON THE OTHER HAND, RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, FRESH FRUIT AND LIVE POULTRY DECREASED.

THE NEW CPI(A) AND THE NEW CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1984-85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

THE NEW CPI(A) REFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$2 000 AND \$6 499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME AND THE NEW CPI(B) BETWEEN \$6 500 AND \$9 999 A MONTH.

CHANGES IN THE INDEXES FOR OCTOBER 1986 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY-SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986 AND OCTOBER 1985, ARE GIVEN BELOW.

(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 AVERAGE = 100)

SECTION	NEW CPI(A)			NEW CPI(B)		
	INDEX FOR OCT. 86	% CHANGE OVER SEP. 86	% CHANGE OVER OCT. 85	INDEX FOR OCT. 86	% CHANGE OVER SEP. 86	% CHANGE OVER OCT. 85
FOODSTUFFS	101.7	-0.9	+1.4	102.2	-0.7	+1.7
				/HOUSING	106.6

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HOUSING	106.6	+0.1	+3.9	105.5	+0.1	+3.5
FUEL AND LIGHT	89.2	+0.8	-10.7	89.9	+0.9	-10.2
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	110.0	-0.1	+4.5	109.8	-0.0*	+4.4
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	109.5	+2.2	+6.6	110.7	+2.3	+7.4
DURABLE GOODS	107.6	+1.0	+8.6	106.8	+1.0	+7.8
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	107.1	+0.9	+6.4	107.6	+0.9	+6.6
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	107.2	-0.1	+4.1	106.6	-0.0*	+3.6
SERVICES	113.4	+3.2	+7.0	112.4	+2.8	+6.8
ALL ITEMS	104.8	+0.2	+3.2	105.2	+0.4	+3.6

* LESS THAN 0.05 PER CENT

COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 0.9 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(A) AND BY 0.7 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(B). THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE DECREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, FRESH FRUIT AND LIVE POULTRY, WHICH MORE THAN OFFSET THE INCREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SALT-WATER FISH AND IN THE AVERAGE CHARGE FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES. THE EFFECT OF MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS WAS INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT INCREASED BY 0.8 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(A) AND BY 0.9 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES OF KEROSENE AS WELL AS THE UPWARD FUEL COST ADJUSTMENT FOR TOWNGAS.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR INCREASED BY 2.2 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(A) AND BY 2.3 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF MEN'S AND WOMEN'S OUTERCLOTHING.

THE INDEX FOR DURABLE GOODS INCREASED BY 1.0 PER CENT IN BOTH NEW CPI(A) AND NEW CPI(B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICES OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, TRAVEL GOODS AND WATCHES.

/THE INDEX

THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS INCREASED BY 0.9 PER CENT IN BOTH NEW CPI(A) AND NEW CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES OF JEWELLERY.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES INCREASED BY 3.2 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(A) AND BY 2.8 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER SCHOOL FEES, TEXTBOOK PRICES AND TENNIS COURT CHARGES.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER SECTIONS OF THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

(FIGURES HEREIN REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TAKEN TO MORE THAN ONE DECIMAL PLACE.)

MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE +CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT+ FOR OCTOBER 1986, AVAILABLE AT \$3 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG; OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, ROOM 1904, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 317 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG; OR FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, BASKERVILLE HOUSE, DUDELL STREET, HONG KONG FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES CAN BE MADE WITH CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 3-7216512.

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW
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THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING OF THIS YEAR'S OPEN HEARINGS TOMORROW (TUESDAY) STARTING AT 2.15 PM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO ANSWER POINTS RAISED IN THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S ANNUAL REPORT WILL BE THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, THE DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION, AND THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES.

FURTHER HEARINGS WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 26 AND 28, BOTH OF WHICH WILL START AT 8.30 AM.

/THE TIMETABLE

THE TIMETABLE FOR TOMORROW'S HEARING IS:

- 2.15 PM SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER AND DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
PARAGRAPHS 13-16 AND 17-28
- 3 PM SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE
PARAGRAPHS 53-55
- 3.45 PM DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING
PARAGRAPHS 125-132
- 4.15 PM DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY, COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION AND SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES
PARAGRAPHS 35-41
- 4.45 PM DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY
PARAGRAPHS 67-71

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE OPEN HEARINGS SHOULD BRING WITH THEM A COPY OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT.

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BUILDING ORGANISATIONS HELPING BETTER MANAGEMENT
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DIMLY-LIT STAIRCASES, FILTHY REAR LANES, DANGLING ELECTRICITY WIRES, BLOCKED FIRE EXITS AND PASSAGE WAYS - THESE ARE SOME OF THE UNSIGHTLY PROBLEMS SPOTTED BY THE MONG KOK BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM IN POORLY MANAGED BUILDINGS.

COMPRISING FOUR HOUSING PROFESSIONALS, THE TEAM HAS BEEN POSTED TO THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE TO ADVISE ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT MATTERS.

+SINCE OUR ARRIVAL IN JULY, MEMBERS HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO VISIT BUILDINGS AND TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH OWNERS,+ SAID HOUSING MANAGER, MR CHONG SZE-CHIU, WHO LEADS THE TEAM.

/+WE HAVE

+WE HAVE MANAGED TO PERSUADE OWNERS TO BRING ABOUT IMPROVEMENT TO VARIOUS PROBLEM BUILDINGS, LIKE REPAIRS TO DEFECTIVE STRUCTURES, REPLACEMENT OF LEAKING SEWERS AND BROKEN WINDOW PANES, REPAINTING COMMON WALLS, RENEWAL OF LIFTS, ELECTRICITY CABLES AND FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE TEAM HAS ALSO CO-ORDINATED CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS WITH THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO REMOVE LARGE QUANTITY OF RUBBISH IN REAR LANES AND THE COMMON AREAS OF BUILDINGS.

+WE ADVISE ON A WIDE RANGE OF BUILDING MATTERS, INCLUDING THE COLLECTION OF MANAGEMENT FEES, SETTING UP PROPER RECORD AND REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNAL AREAS, AND EXPLAINING GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS ON SECURITY, ENVIRONMENT AND HYGIENE.

+THESE DUTIES LOOK VERY MUCH LIKE MUNDANE HOUSEHOLD CHORES BUT THEY ARE ESSENTIAL TO PROPER MANAGEMENT OF THE BUILDINGS,+ MR CHONG SAID.

INITIALLY THE TEAM SELECTED 39 BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT AS TARGETS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

COMMON TO THESE BUILDINGS ARE PROBLEMS LIKE THE EXISTENCE OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ON ROOFTOPS AND INSIDE LANES, UNLAWFUL EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS TO PREMISES, IMPROPERLY INSTALLED TELEVISION ANTENNAE AND THE ACCUMMULATION OF RUBBISH ON CANOPIES AND IN LIGHT WELLS.

THE TEAM SEES THAT IN ORDER TO INTRODUCE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BUILDINGS, THE INVOLVEMENT OF OWNERS IN BUILDING MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS IS MOST USEFUL AND EFFECTIVE.

LIAISON OFFICERS IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE TEAM THEREFORE HAVE ALL ALONG BEEN ACTIVELY VISITING BUILDINGS TO ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF OWNERS' CORPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

UP TILL OCTOBER, MONG KOK HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES FORMED WITH THE HELP OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

THERE ARE ALTOGETHER 577 SUCH ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT. AND THIS YEAR, 30 MORE ARE EXPECTED TO BE FORMED.

+THE TEAM ALSO HELPS REVITALISE OWNERS' CORPORATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN ACTIVELY FUNCTIONING PREVIOUSLY, AND TO URGE GREATER PARTICIPATION FROM ALL OWNERS,+ MR CHONG SAID.

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1980 PRIVATE CARS FALL UNDER INSPECTION SCHEME
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MOTORISTS ARE REMINDED THAT PRIVATE CARS MANUFACTURED IN 1980 WHICH REQUIRE A NEW LICENCE BY APRIL 1 NEXT YEAR MUST PASS A ROADWORTHINESS TEST PRIOR TO RENEWAL.

+UNDER THE PRIVATE CAR INSPECTION SCHEME WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 2 THIS YEAR, ALL SIX-YEAR-OLD PRIVATE CARS MUST FIRST OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF ROADWORTHINESS FROM A GOVERNMENT-DESIGNATED CAR TESTING CENTRE BEFORE THEIR LICENCES CAN BE RENEWED,+ A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

+WITH THE APPROACH OF 1987, IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT 1980 CARS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE INSPECTION SCHEME,+ HE ADDED.

THERE ARE 17 DESIGNATED CAR-TESTING CENTRES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR AND APPOINTMENTS FOR INSPECTION MAY BE MADE FOUR MONTHS BEFORE THE EXPIRY DATE OF THE VEHICLE LICENCE.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE CERTIFICATE OF ROADWORTHINESS FOR ANY PRIVATE CAR WHICH HAS PASSED THE TEST MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN FOUR MONTHS OF THE ISSUE DATE FOR RELICENSING A VEHICLE, OTHERWISE ITS VALIDITY WOULD LAPSE.

THE FEE FOR A CAR INSPECTION IS \$160 AND A RE-CHECK FEE OF \$50 IS CHARGED WHEN DEFECTS FOUND IN THE ORIGINAL INSPECTION ARE REMEDIED AND EXAMINED WITHIN 14 DAYS. IN CASES OF SPECIFIED MINOR FAULTS, THE RE-CHECK IS FREE OF CHARGE.

SHOULD A CAR OWNER DISAGREE WITH THE RESULT OF A TEST, HE CAN APPEAL TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR A FRESH, INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION.

+TO AVOID UNNECESSARY INCONVENIENCE, CAR OWNERS SHOULD HAVE THEIR VEHICLES CHECKED AND REPAIRED BEFORE THE INSPECTION APPOINTMENT WITH CAR TESTING CENTRES,+ THE SPOKESMAN URGED.

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REGISTRATION REVOKED
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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF MANUFACTURERS' MUTUAL FINANCE LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED TODAY AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE 1986.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1986

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EMPLOYMENT SEMINARS FOR POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES
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POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES SEEKING JOBS OR ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SERIES OF SEMINARS ON BANKING, COMPUTER INDUSTRY AND ENGINEERING EARLY NEXT MONTH.

THE HALF-DAY SEMINARS ARE ORGANISED BY THE HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WHICH PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO JOB-SEEKERS POSSESSING UNIVERSITY, POST-SECONDARY OR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.

THEY WILL BE HELD FROM DECEMBER 1 TO 3 AT THE DEPARTMENT'S BRANCH OFFICE AT HENNESSY CENTRE, SIXTH FLOOR, 500 HENNESSY ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE SEMINARS WILL TAKE THE FORM OF PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS PROSPECTS IN RELATED FIELDS, TALKS ON JOB APPLICATION AND INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES AND A TOUR TO THE DEPARTMENT'S CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE IN THE SAME BUILDING.

EXPERTS IN THE TRADES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ADDRESS PARTICIPANTS ABOUT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THEIR FIELDS.

THOSE WISHING TO TAKE PART SHOULD CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT ON 5-296140.

THE SERVICE ALSO SUPPLIES INFORMATION ON SALARY TRENDS, AVAILABILITY OF EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES AND JOB-HUNTING TECHNIQUES TO POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES WHEN THEY REGISTER.

DURING THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR IT HAS PLACED SOME 340 PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT.

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DB MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT SERVICES FOR ELDERLY
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MEMBERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TODAY (MONDAY) VISITED TWO INSTITUTIONS TO LEARN ABOUT THE PROVISION OF ELDERLY SERVICE FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

ACCOMPANIED BY KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAM HANG-FAI, AND REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (KOWLOON EAST), MR KWOK KA-CHI, THE PARTY FIRST TOURED THE KWUN TONG DAY CARE CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY RUN BY THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE.

/THE CENTRE

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THE CENTRE STARTED OPERATION IN JANUARY THIS YEAR AND PROVIDED WHOLE DAY AND PART-TIME PERSONAL AND NURSING CARE TO ELDERLY PEOPLE.

THE CENTRE CAN ACCOMMODATE 40 PEOPLE AND IS ONE OF THE THREE DAY CARE CENTRES IN HONG KONG. IT IS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN KWUN TONG.

THE PARTY THEN VISITED THE MADAM WONG CHAN SOOK-YING MEMORIAL CARE AND ATTENTION HOME FOR THE AGED OPERATED BY THE HONG KONG CHINESE WOMEN'S CLUB.

THIS INSTITUTION WAS OPENED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR AND PROVIDES ROUND-THE-CLOCK RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR 252 ELDERLY PEOPLE.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 15 GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED AND TWO VOLUNTARY-AGENCY RUN ELDERLY SERVICES CENTRES IN KWUN TONG. THEY OPERATE A TOTAL OF 30 DIFFERENT SERVICE UNITS PROVIDING VARIOUS KINDS OF SERVICES TO ELDERLY PEOPLE.

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT FESTIVAL SINGING CONTEST
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SIX GROUPS AND 12 SOLOISTS WILL COMPETE IN THE FINAL OF THE FIRST SOUTHERN DISTRICT SINGING CONTEST ON DECEMBER 6 EVENING IN THE SCHOOL HALL OF CHAN PAK SHA SCHOOL, SHUM WAN ROAD, WONG CHUK HANG.

THE COMPETITION IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S ARTS AND CULTURE ASSOCIATION, MUSIC OFFICE AND THE URBAN COUNCIL AS ONE OF THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMMES OF THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL.

THE COMPETITION IS DIVIDED INTO GROUP AND SOLO SECTIONS. THE FINALISTS WERE SELECTED FROM MORE THAN 330 ENTRANTS AT AN AUDITION EARLIER THIS MONTH. SOME CONTESTANTS CAME FROM COMMUNITY BODIES SUCH AS THE HONG KONG PHAB ASSOCIATION AND THE EBENEZER SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

FINALISTS WILL PERFORM BOTH WESTERN AND CHINESE POPULAR AND FOLK SONGS AND THE TOP THREE PERFORMERS IN EACH SECTION WILL BE AWARDED TROPHIES AND GIFT COUPONS.

THE FINAL WILL ALSO FEATURE A GUEST PERFORMANCE BY THE BAND EQUATOR.

TICKETS ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS ARE OBTAINABLE FREE FROM THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND SUB-OFFICES IN ABERDEEN CENTRE, WAH FU AND STANLEY; THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ARTS AND CULTURE ASSOCIATION IN LEE CHAK HOUSE, AP LEI CHAU ESTATE; THE HONG KONG PHAB ASSOCIATION; THE ABERDEEN KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CENTRE AND THE TIN WAN CARITAS COMMUNITY CENTRE.

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SCHOOL COUNSELLING, GUIDANCE COURSE OFFERED
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL FULLY SPONSOR 24 SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS TO ATTEND A CERTIFICATE COURSE IN SCHOOL COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE RUN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG STARTING EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE COURSE AIMS TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS TO ENABLE THEM TO RENDER A MORE EFFECTIVE SERVICE IN HELPING STUDENTS WITH DIFFICULTY COPE WITH SCHOOL LIFE, IN HANDLING THEMSELVES AND THEIR INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP.

THE CERTIFICATE COURSE IN SCHOOL COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE WILL START IN JANUARY AND BE COMPLETED IN DECEMBER NEXT YEAR.

ALL FEES FOR PARTICIPANTS WILL BE PAID BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S MAIN OFFICE OF THE EXTRA-MURAL TOWN CENTRE OF THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY AT SHUN TAK CENTRE, WEST TOWER, NINTH FLOOR, 200 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE OFFICE BEFORE SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 29).

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TEMPORARY MARKET BEING BUILT IN TAI KOK TSUI
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A TEMPORARY MARKET WILL BE BUILT IN TAI KOK TSUI UNDER A \$5.4 MILLION CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

IT WILL OCCUPY A SITE OF ABOUT 6 700 SQUARE METRES BOUNDED BY TAI KOK TSUI ROAD, FUK TSUN STREET AND IVY STREET.

FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE MEAT, FISH AND POULTRY STALLS, 195 MINI-STALLS AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES.

WORK WILL START THIS WEEK AND BE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR.

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CONTRACT SIGNING FOR MAJOR ROAD PROJECT
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THE SECOND CONTRACT FOR THE UPGRADED CONNAUGHT ROAD SCHEME, A \$187 MILLION CONTRACT FOR A FLYOVER AT RUMSEY STREET, WILL BE SIGNED TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR HAROLD BEATON, WILL BE SIGNING WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PAUL Y CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED, MR G.C. TSO.

THE WORK INCLUDES CONSTRUCTION OF A DUAL THREE-LANE FLYOVER FROM WEST OF GILMAN STREET TO EAST OF SUTHERLAND STREET AND ANCILLARY WORKS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY AT 11.30 AM TOMORROW IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, NINTH FLOOR, EMPIRE CENTRE, 68 MODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON.

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CERTIFICATES FOR COURSE PARTICIPANTS
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MORE THAN 200 PARTICIPANTS OF THE SIX CERTIFICATE COURSES ON LABOUR RELATIONS ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR WILL BE AWARDED CERTIFICATES TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE RECIPIENTS HAVE COMPLETED THE FULL PROGRAMME OF THE COURSES DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF LABOUR ORDINANCES AND WAYS TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND TOOLS.

ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT TO BE HELD AT THE CRYSTAL BALLROOM OF THE HOLIDAY INN GOLDEN MILE HOTEL, KOWLOON, AT 4 PM TOMORROW.

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DETAILS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN
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A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE YAU MA TEI ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE ACADEMY ROOM OF HARBOUR VIEW HOLIDAY INN.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR AUGUSTINE CHENG, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CAMPAIGN'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR WAI KIN-BONG.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL
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DUE TO THE REMOVAL OF AN MTR CHILLER IN CENTRAL, RUMSEY STREET BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM MIDNIGHT ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 26) TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

DURING THE CLOSURE, AFFECTED VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED TO JUBILEE STREET. IN ADDITION, THE TAXI STAND ON RUMSEY STREET WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED.

MEANWHILE, TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORK THE SECTION OF MORRISON STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND A POINT ABOUT FIVE METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL ALSO BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR THREE WEEKS FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 27).

AS A RESULT, THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED:

- * MORRISON STREET BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT FIVE METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND ITS JUNCTION WITH WING LOK STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC FOR LOCAL ACCESS.
- * NORTHBOUND VEHICLES ON MORRISON STREET WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT INTO WING LOK STREET.
- * CLEVERLY STREET BETWEEN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND WING LOK STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

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WATER CUTS IN THREE AREAS
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHA TIN, KWUN TONG AND YUEN LONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 27) FOR MAINS WORK.

IN SHA TIN, SUPPLY WILL BE STOPPED FROM 9 PM ON THURSDAY TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE SAN CHUI ESTATE, KAK TIN TSUEN, GOLDEN LION GARDEN, TIN SAM VILLAGE, LUNG HANG ESTATE, KING TIN COURT, HIN KENG ESTATE, SHEUNG KENG HAU VILLAGE, HA KENG HAU VILLAGE, HIN TIN VILLAGE, KENG HAU ROAD AND SHATIN HEIGHT.

IN KWUN TONG, SUPPLY WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY KA LOK STREET, SHUI NING STREET, HIP WO STREET, KWUN TONG ROAD AND HONG NING ROAD, INCLUDING SHUNG YAN STREET, SHUI WO STREET, MUT WAH STREET, FU YAN STREET, YAN SHUN LANE, YUE MAN SQUARE AND TUNG YAN STREET.

IN YUEN LONG, SUPPLY WILL BE SUSPENDED BETWEEN 9 AM AND 3 PM ON THURSDAY.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES ALONG PING HA ROAD, LAU FAU SHAN ROAD, TIN HA ROAD AND DEEP BAY ROAD, INCLUDING SIK KONG TSUEN, TSEUNG KONG WAI, LO UK TSUEN, FUNG KONG TSUEN, SAN UK TSUEN, LEI UK TSUEN, SAI SHAN TSUEN, WONG MA TUN AND HUNG SHUI KIU.

SHA KONG WAI, NGAU HOM, SAN HING TSUEN, LAU FAU SHAN, FUK LO TSUEN, HANG HAU TSUEN AND SHA KONG MIU WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 63.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 373.596 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 429.030 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 73.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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