



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

LAW CHANGES CONSIDERED IN CLAMPDOWN ON TRIADS	1
WELFARE SERVICES PROVIDED FOR FAMILIES IN DIFFICULTIES ...	3
'FAIR COMPARISON' PRINCIPLE USED FOR PAY DECISION	4
BOUGHT-PLACE SCHEME TO CONTINUE IN 'ACCEPTABLE SCHOOLS' ..	4
SAFETY MEASURES AT TRAINING CENTRES UNDER REVIEW	5
STANDARD CLAUSES FOR DEEDS BEING DRAWN UP	6
FIRE OFFICERS TRAINED TO DETECT ARSON	7
HEALTHY GROWTH FOR CORPORATION IN 1984-85	8
FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR WORKING PARTY CHAIRMAN	9
MOST SUITABLE FORM OF ELDERLY HOMES CONTROL SOUGHT	10
REGISTRATION OF ALL ENGINEERS BEING CONSIDERED	10
POSTINGS TO FAMILIES CLINICS EXPLAINED	11
LOWER LEVY INTENDED	12
SAI KUNG'S REFUSE, HAWKING PROBLEMS UNDER CONTROL	13
CS TO VISIT JUNK BAY	14
COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER DEVELOPMENT OF VACANT SITE	14
SHOPS URGED TO TIGHTEN UP ON SECURITY	15
CAREERS EXHIBITION TO BE OPENED	16
BOARD TO DISCUSS TRAM DEPOT	16
TSUEN WAN TRAFFIC RE-ROUTED	17
EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH CLOSURE	17
LORRY PARKING SPACES SUSPENDED	17

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1985

- 1 -

LAW CHANGES CONSIDERED IN CLAMPDOWN ON TRIADS
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A WORKING GROUP ON GANGS SET UP UNDER THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE HAS CONSIDERED CHANGES IN THE LAW TO PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT GREATER POWERS TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE ORGANISED CRIME, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS ROSANNA TAM, MR THOMAS SAID THIS WORK WAS PROCEEDING AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.

+EARLY NEXT YEAR, THIS COUNCIL WILL RECEIVE A DISCUSSION PAPER UPON THE LEGISLATIVE OPTIONS IDENTIFIED BY THE WORKING GROUP TO PROVIDE GREATER POWERS TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE ORGANISED CRIME. THESE WILL NEED MEMBERS' CAREFUL CONSIDERATION,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THE DEEP CONCERN THAT WAS BEING EXPRESSED IN THE COMMUNITY ABOUT TRIADS, AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED AND DEDICATED TO DO ITS UTMOST TO ELIMINATE TRIAD RELATED CRIMES.

OPERATIONS WITH TRIAD TARGETS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY MOUNTED BY THE POLICE IN PAST MONTHS AND WOULD CONTINUE, HE SAID.

+FIRSTLY, THEY HAVE CONCENTRATED RESOURCES ON THE INVESTIGATION OF CRIMES INVOLVING SUSPECTED TRIAD MEMBERS. THEY ARE ALSO TAKING MEASURES TO DEVELOP AN IMPROVED INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY TO IDENTIFY RELEVANT CRIMES.

+SECONDLY, THE POLICE HAVE SOUGHT TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR TRIADS TO PROFIT FROM THEIR TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES BY UNDERTAKING OPERATIONS AGAINST PROSTITUTION, GAMBLING, RACKETEERING AND INTIMIDATION.+

MR THOMAS SAID SOME RESULTS HAD BEEN QUITE STRIKING. +LAST WEDNESDAY FOR EXAMPLE A SPECIAL TERRITORY-WIDE OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT BY POLICE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THIS INVOLVED 1 500 POLICEMEN WHO WERE MOBILISED TO CONDUCT SNAP CHECKS ON KNOWN CRIMINAL AND TRIAD HAUNTS. THE OPERATION LASTED ONLY SIX HOURS BUT 14 000 WERE CHECKED. ONE HUNDRED AND TWELVE PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED AND 25 PERSONS WERE CHARGED WITH OFFENCES RANGING FROM ROBBERY TO BURGLARY, ARSON AND NARCOTICS OFFENCES,+ HE ADDED.

AT A STRATEGIC LEVEL THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CO-ORDINATING THE EFFORTS OF THE POLICE AND THE GOVERNMENT'S OTHER DEPARTMENTS, MR THOMAS SAID, NOTING THAT THE GOVERNOR HAD IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS ASKED THE COMMITTEE TO GIVE A HIGH PRIORITY TO THIS TASK.

/EE SAID

- 2 -

HE SAID THE WORKING GROUP ON GANGS, SET UP UNDER THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, WAS TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF ACTIVITY BY TRIADS AND GANGS, TO DETERMINE AN OVERALL STRATEGY AND TO CO-ORDINATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS STRATEGY.

THE WORKING GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, DR HO KAM-FAI, AND A MEMBER OF A DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, HAD BEEN HOLDING DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH HEADS AND SENIOR STAFF OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, WHICH MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY TRIAD ACTIVITIES, TO FIND WAYS IN WHICH THEY COULD ASSIST, MR THOMAS SAID.

+AS A RESULT THE GROUP HAS MADE FIRM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN THE WHOLESALE FISH MARKETS, HAWKER CONTROL MEASURES, AND WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS, ALL AIMED AT THWARTING TRIAD ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS ADDED THAT THE WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN ASSISTED IN THIS WORK BY THE URBAN COUNCIL'S REVIEW OF THEIR POLICY ON HAWKER CONTROL.

SOME DEPARTMENTS HAD ALSO TAKEN THEIR OWN INITIATIVES, HE SAID. +FOR EXAMPLE, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT NOW UNDERTAKES THE COMPLETE FITTING OUT OF FAMILY HUTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS. THIS HAS LIMITED THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRIADS IN THAT FIELD.+

NOTING THAT THESE WERE ALL STEPS THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE, MR THOMAS SAID THIS KIND OF CRIME WAS ALSO A PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY.

+ALL HONOURABLE MEMBERS CAN PLAY THEIR PART IN ASSISTING THE GOVERNMENT TO DESTROY THE INFLUENCE AND THE APPEAL OF THE TRIADS, ESPECIALLY TO THE YOUNG. PEOPLE MUST BE ENCOURAGED TO REPORT TRIAD ACTIVITIES.

+EVERY OPPORTUNITY MUST BE TAKEN TO SHOW THAT TRIADS ARE NEITHER HONOURABLE NOR GLAMOROUS HANDS OF BROTHERS. THEY ARE GANGS OF THUGS AND BULLIES. SUCCESS IN THE END WILL DEPEND UPON THE COMMUNITY'S DETERMINATION TO STAND UP TO THREATENING BEHAVIOUR AND TO RESIST CONTEMPTIBLE RACKETS,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1985

- 3 -

WELFARE SERVICES PROVIDED FOR FAMILIES IN DIFFICULTIES
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THE FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES PROVIDE A RANGE OF SERVICES TO ASSIST FAMILIES IN DIFFICULTIES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SELINA CHOW ON CRIMES OCCURRING WITHIN FAMILIES, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT ON THE PREVENTIVE SIDE, THESE ORGANISATIONS PROVIDED COUNSELLING AND ORGANISED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES.

CASH ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES WAS PROVIDED AS WELL AS A RANGE OF DIRECT SERVICES TO HELP SUCH FAMILIES TO COPE WITH THEIR PROBLEMS, HE SAID.

+WHERE NECESSARY, TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION CAN BE ARRANGED FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE IN THE FAMILY.

+THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF WOMEN OPERATES A SHELTER FOR THIS PURPOSE AND A FURTHER CENTRE TO BE OPERATED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE IN OPERATION DURING THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR,+ HE SAID.

WHILE THE FIGURES FLUCTUATED FROM YEAR TO YEAR, HE SAID, THE NUMBER OF CASES OF HOMICIDE AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS ARISING FROM DISPUTES OF A DOMESTIC NATURE, OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN AND INCEST HAD REMAINED AT SIMILAR LEVELS SINCE 1981.

+FROM THE STATISTICS KEPT BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, NO PARTICULAR TREND CAN BE IDENTIFIED,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS ADDED THAT THE FORMAT IN WHICH STATISTICS WERE AT PRESENT KEPT IN THE CORONER'S COURT DID NOT ENABLE THE AUTHORITIES TO IDENTIFY THE NUMBER OF SUICIDES WHICH MIGHT HAVE RESULTED FROM DOMESTIC DISPUTES.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1985

- 4 -

'FAIR COMPARISON' PRINCIPLE USED FOR PAY DECISION
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THE PRINCIPLE OF FAIR COMPARISON WITH REMUNERATION FOR COMPARABLE EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE APPLIED IN CONSIDERING THE RECENT REQUEST BY CERTAIN NON-DIRECTORATE STAFF UNIONS FOR A PAY ADJUSTMENT OF 6.4 PER CENT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON SZETO WAH, SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT +THE MAIN ARGUMENT FOR THE REQUEST IS THAT SINCE 1981 SALARIES FOR NON-DIRECTORATE STAFF HAVE LAGGED BEHIND THE PRIVATE SECTOR+.

EXPLAINING THE PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED, SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE HAD WRITTEN TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE SEEKING ITS ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE REGARDING THE UNIONS' REQUEST AS THE MATTER FELL WITHIN THE STANDING COMMISSION'S TERMS OF REFERENCE.

+WHEN ADVICE IS RECEIVED FROM THE STANDING COMMISSION,+ SIR DAVID SAID,+THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE WILL ENTER INTO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE STAFF SIDES OF THE THREE CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCILS.+

HE ADDED THAT THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED THEN WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

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BOUGHT-PLACE SCHEME TO CONTINUE IN 'ACCEPTABLE SCHOOLS'
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GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BUY PLACES IN THOSE PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS WHICH ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE EDUCATION OF ACCEPTABLE QUALITY, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON DESMOND LEE, MR HENDERSON SAID IT WAS ALSO GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION IN THE LIGHT OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S REPORT NO. 1 TO BEGIN BUYING FORM 4 AND 5 PLACES IN SUCH SCHOOLS FROM A FUTURE DATE TO ASSIST IN THE PHASING OUT OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT SYSTEM.

+A NUMBER OF PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS WILL, THEREFORE, CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC SECTOR SCHOOL PLACES.

/+THIS ALSO

+THIS ALSO MEANS, OF COURSE, THAT THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WILL NO LONGER BE BUYING PLACES AND THE PROCESS OF PHASING OUT THE BUYING OF PLACES IN THESE SCHOOLS IS ALREADY IN HAND, TO COMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER 1986,+ HE SAID.

MR HENDERSON CITED A 1978 WHITE PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION AS STATING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT EXTEND THE BOUGHT-PLACE SCHEME TO SENIOR SECONDARY FORMS IN PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AND WOULD TERMINATE THE BUYING OF JUNIOR SECONDARY PLACES IN SCHOOLS OF THIS TYPE WHICH DID NOT HAVE GOOD FACILITIES AND OPERATING STANDARDS.

HOWEVER, MR HENDERSON SAID THE LONG-TERM FUTURE OF PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS WAS NOT SIMPLY A QUESTION OF THE NUMBER OF PLACES BOUGHT BY GOVERNMENT.

+THIS MUST OBVIOUSLY BE DETERMINED BY THE ABILITY OF THESE SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE AN EDUCATION SERVICE OF A NATURE OR OF A QUALITY WHICH PARENTS ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO AFFORD.

+I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A MARKET FOR THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE BEST OF THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF SUCH SCHOOLS WITHIN A DIVERSE EDUCATION SYSTEM WILL BE WELCOMED BY GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIVATE NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOLS, FROM WHICH THE GOVERNMENT ALSO BOUGHT PLACES, WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE BOUGHT PLACES AS AT PRESENT AND NO CHANGE WAS EXPECTED IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, HE ADDED.

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SAFETY MEASURES AT TRAINING CENTRES UNDER REVIEW

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THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY WOULD BE REVIEWING THE SAFETY MEASURES IN TRAINING CENTRES TO PREVENT FUTURE ACCIDENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN RELATING TO THE INCIDENT ON NOVEMBER 5 AT THE AUTHORITY'S KWAI CHUNG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE WHERE AN APPRENTICE WAS KILLED BY A FALLING IRON BAR, MR HENDERSON SAID THAT OFFICERS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND STAFF OF THE CENTRE THEMSELVES WERE INVESTIGATING THE CASE.

+IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR FINDINGS, THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY WILL REVIEW THE SAFETY MEASURES IN THESE TRAINING CENTRES WITH A VIEW TO DOING ALL POSSIBLE TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF SUCH AN ACCIDENT,+ HE SAID.

MR HENDERSON POINTED OUT THAT THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRES HAD HAD A VERY GOOD RECORD IN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND THERE HAD BEEN NO SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT THOSE CENTRES IN THE PAST.

+INDEED, THIS AND OTHER TRAINING CENTRES TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF CARE AND TROUBLE TO INCLUDE THE TEACHING OF GOOD SAFETY PRACTICE AS PART OF THEIR CURRICULA.

+THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR IS A MEMBER OF THE AUTHORITY AND WILL THUS BE IN A POSITION TO ENSURE THAT THE REVIEW IS COMPREHENSIVE AND THAT ANY NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS ARE MADE,+ HE ADDED.

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STANDARD CLAUSES FOR DEEDS BEING DRAWN UP
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THE GOVERNMENT IS DRAWING UP A NUMBER OF STANDARD CLAUSES FOR INCLUSION IN DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT TO PROTECT INDIVIDUAL BUYERS IN SUCH FUNDAMENTAL AREAS AS BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND COMMON AREAS AND TO PROVIDE A CLEAR FRAME-WORK FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE BUILDING.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JACKIE CHAN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+THEY ALSO SET OUT CLEARLY THE RELATIONSHIP, RIGHTS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPERS, MANAGEMENT AGENTS AND INDIVIDUAL OWNERS WITH RESPECT TO THE DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF PROPERTY,+ HE SAID.

MR LIAO SAID THESE CLAUSES WERE BEING DRAWN UP AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL DISTRICT BOARDS AND VARIOUS RELATED PROFESSIONAL BODIES.

+IT IS INTENDED THAT AS A FIRST STEP, STARTING FROM EARLY NEXT YEAR, DEEDS ARISING FROM NEW NON-INDUSTRIAL LEASEHOLD GRANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO CONTAIN THESE CLAUSES,+ HE SAID.

/MR LIAO

MR LIAO SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE PLANS TO INTRODUCE A STANDARD DEED OF MUTUAL COVENANT. +THIS IS BECAUSE A STANDARDISED DEED WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE TO CATER FOR THE MANY AND VARIED CIRCUMSTANCES FOR DIFFERENT KINDS OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT.+

MR LIAO ADDED THAT THE DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT WERE PREPARED IN ENGLISH AT PRESENT. WHEN CHINESE VERSIONS WERE AVAILABLE, THERE SHOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY IN INCLUDING THE STANDARD CLAUSES IN CHINESE, HE SAID.

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FIRE OFFICERS TRAINED TO DETECT ARSON
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WAS OPERATING TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR FIRE OFFICERS ON HOW TO DETECT EVIDENCE OF ARSON AND THE PROGRAMME WAS STRENGTHENED IN 1983 WHEN COURSES CONDUCTED BY AN ARSON INVESTIGATION SPECIALIST FOR SELECTED OFFICERS WERE INTRODUCED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI ON GOVERNMENT'S MEASURES AGAINST ARSON.

SO FAR, MR THOMAS ADDED, 150 FIRE OFFICERS HAD UNDERGONE THIS SPECIALIST TRAINING.

MR THOMAS SAID FIRE SERVICES PERSONNEL FIGHTING FIRES WERE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO INVESTIGATE THE CAUSE OF THE FIRES.

HE SAID THAT IF, AS A RESULT OF THEIR INVESTIGATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT HAD ANY SUSPICION THE FIRE HAD BEEN CAUSED BY ARSON, THE CASE WAS PASSED TO THE POLICE FOR INVESTIGATION.

+IN THEIR INVESTIGATIONS, THE POLICE ARE BACKED BY THE FIRE INVESTIGATION ORDINANCE WHICH EMPOWERS THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE TO TAKE POSSESSION OF ANY PREMISES ON WHICH A FIRE HAS TAKEN PLACE OR WHERE AN ATTEMPT IS SUSPECTED,+ SAID MR THOMAS.

+WHERE POSSESSION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE COMMISSIONER OF ANY PREMISES, THE COMMISSIONER IS REQUIRED TO MAKE A REPORT TO A MAGISTRATE AS TO THE ORIGIN AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE FIRE.+

ON RECEIPT OF THE REPORT THE MAGISTRATE MUST INVESTIGATE THE CAUSES OF THE FIRE, UNLESS HE CONSIDERED AN INQUIRY UNNECESSARY.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1985

- 8 -

+THE FACT THAT THERE ARE THESE SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR INVESTIGATING THE CAUSES OF FIRE INDICATE HOW SERIOUSLY THE GOVERNMENT TAKES ARSON,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

HE ADDED THAT GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THE MOST EFFECTIVE DETERRENCE TO ARSON WAS THE SUCCESSFUL DETECTION AND PROSECUTION OF OFFENDERS.

IN THE LAST THREE YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1985, A TOTAL OF 978 FIRES WHICH WERE SUSPECTED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO HAVE BEEN STARTED DELIBERATELY WERE REFERRED TO THE POLICE FOR INVESTIGATION. OF THESE, THE POLICE CONSIDERED THAT 588 WERE THE RESULT OF ARSON.

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HEALTHY GROWTH FOR CORPORATION IN 1984-85

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PREMIUM INCOME OF THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION DURING 1984-85 GREW BY ABOUT 29 PER CENT TO \$33.8 MILLION AND TOTAL INSURED EXPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 26 PER CENT TO \$5 893 MILLION, THOUGH ACCOUNTING FOR ONLY ABOUT THREE PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON E.P. HO, WHEN HE TABLED THE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR 1984-85 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR HO SAID THAT THERE WAS A HEALTHY GROWTH IN THE CORPORATION'S BUSINESS DURING THE YEAR.

+EUROPE REMAINED THE CORPORATION'S LARGEST EXPOSURE AREA. INSURED EXPORTS TO EUROPEAN MARKETS WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR \$3 179 MILLION OR OVER 50 PER CENT OF TOTAL INSURED EXPORTS, GREW BY 14 PER CENT.

+INSURED EXPORTS TO NORTH AMERICA, WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR \$1 474 MILLION OR 25 PER CENT OF TOTAL INSURED EXPORTS, REGISTERED A HEALTHY GROWTH RATE OF 48 PER CENT,+ HE SAID.

PRODUCTS COVERED BY THE CORPORATION, MR HO SAID, REMAINED CONSISTENT WITH THE OVERALL PATTERN OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS. WITH TEXTILES AND CLOTHING ACCOUNTING FOR 35 PER CENT, RADIOS AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS FOR 16 PER CENT, AND TOYS FOR EIGHT PER CENT.

/HOWEVER, MR

- 9 -

HOWEVER, MR HO ADDED, WHILE 1984-85 WAS A PERIOD OF HEALTHY RECOVERY IN HONG KONG'S EXPORT PERFORMANCE, THE LEVEL OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN RECENT MONTHS HAD REMAINED STATIC.

+THE YEAR 1985-86 IS LIKELY TO BE CHARACTERISED BY STATIC OR SLUGGISH GROWTH IN THE CORPORATION'S BUSINESS AND THE CORPORATION IS UNLIKELY TO BE ABLE TO REPEAT THE OVERALL SURPLUS OF \$12.06 MILLION FOR 1984-85 IN THE CURRENT YEAR,+ HE SAID.

MR HO THEN THANKED THE CORPORATION'S ADVISORY BOARD, THE COMMISSIONER AND STAFF OF THE CORPORATION FOR THEIR WORK.

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FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR WORKING PARTY CHAIRMAN
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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED FUNDS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRMAN FOR A WORKING PARTY ON POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ANSWERING A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG, HE SAID THAT DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS VIGOROUS EFFORTS HAD BEEN MADE TO IDENTIFY A SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT.

AS RECOMMENDED BY THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WHICH HAD SUGGESTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORKING PARTY, +THE CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE AN OVERSEAS EXPERT WITH CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE OF POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION SYSTEMS,+ HE ADDED.

THE ASSISTANCE OF THE BRITISH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY HAD BEEN SOUGHT AND INQUIRIES WERE ALSO BEING MADE IN SINGAPORE AND AUSTRALIA, MR CHAMBERS SAID.

+THROUGH THESE CHANNELS I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO FIND AN APPROPRIATELY QUALIFIED PERSON IN THE NEAR FUTURE.+

MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT ONCE THE CHAIRMAN HAD BEEN APPOINTED, THE APPOINTMENT OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY WOULD ALSO START.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1985

- 10 -

MOST SUITABLE FORM OF ELDERLY HOMES CONTROL SOUGHT
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS CONSULTING OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES BEFORE MAKING PROPOSALS ON THE MOST SUITABLE FORM OF CONTROL FOR PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER LAST SEPTEMBER AND HAD ADVISED THAT THERE WAS NO COMPELLING REASON TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO CONTROL THEM, ALTHOUGH SOME FORM OF CONTROL MIGHT BE NECESSARY IN THE LONGER TERM TO ENSURE ADEQUATE STANDARDS OF SERVICE, PARTICULARLY IN CONNECTION WITH SAFETY AND HEALTH.

+IN THE MEANTIME THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PAY LIAISON VISITS TO THESE HOMES TO OFFER ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO OPERATORS AND RESIDENTS WHERE NECESSARY,+ HE SAID.

+THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW ALSO PREPARING A CODE OF PRACTICE TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON HOW THESE HOMES SHOULD BE RUN,+ HE ADDED.

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REGISTRATION OF ALL ENGINEERS BEING CONSIDERED
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A WORKING PARTY SET UP TO STUDY THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS WAS ALSO CONSIDERING THE REGISTRATION OF OTHER TYPES OF ENGINEERS, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, SAID TODAY.

ANSWERING A QUESTION BY THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN, MR CHAN SAID THE WORKING PARTY, SET UP AT THE END OF 1984, WAS CHAIRED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES AND INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

IT HAD BEEN GIVEN THE TASK OF CONSIDERING THE ROLE OF ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS WORKING ON BUILDINGS, ENGINEERING PROJECTS AND IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY= EXAMINING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PRESENT LAWS, SYSTEMS OF REGISTRATION AND CONTROL OF SUCH ENGINEERS= AND CONSIDERING WHETHER A NEW REGISTRATION POLICY WAS REQUIRED.

/MR CHAN

- 11 -

MR CHAN SAID THAT THE TASK BEFORE THE WORKING PARTY INVOLVED A LARGE NUMBER OF ENGINEERING DISCIPLINES AND TRADES, FROM SIMPLE TECHNOLOGY TO STATE-OF-THE-ART, HIGH-TECH DEVELOPMENTS.

+WHILE THE WORKING PARTY HAS NOT REACHED ANY TANGIBLE CONCLUSIONS ON ITS DELIBERATIONS, IT HAS MADE PROGRESS AND IS MOVING AS EXPEDITIOUSLY FORWARD AS IS POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE, HAVING REGARD TO THE BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES INVOLVED AND TO THE NEED FOR CIRCUMSPECT CONSULTATION,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS NOT ONLY EXAMINING THE EXISTING SYSTEMS OF REGISTRATION AND THE PEOPLE ENGAGED IN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING BUT ALSO OTHER ENGINEERING SERVICES IN THE INDUSTRY, HE ADDED.

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POSTINGS TO FAMILIES CLINICS EXPLAINED
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IT IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO POST NON-CANTONESE SPEAKING MEDICAL OFFICERS TO FAMILIES CLINICS WHERE THEIR INABILITY TO SPEAK CANTONESE IS LESS OF A HANDICAP THAN IT WOULD BE IN GENERAL OUTPATIENT CLINICS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, HE SAID THAT OF THE TEN MEDICAL OFFICERS POSTED TO THE TWO CLINICS, FIVE WERE NON-CANTONESE SPEAKING -- 50 PER CENT OF THE STAFF WAS THEREFORE NON-CANTONESE SPEAKING.+

+AS THERE HAVE IN THE PAST BEEN PROBLEMS IN FINDING SUFFICIENT LOCAL OFFICERS TO FILL POSTS IN THE FAMILIES CLINICS, IT IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO POST NON-CANTONESE SPEAKING MEDICAL OFFICERS TO THESE CLINICS WHERE THEIR INABILITY TO SPEAK CANTONESE IS LESS OF A HANDICAP THAN IT WOULD BE IN GENERAL OUTPATIENT CLINICS,+ HE EXPLAINED.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1985

- 12 -

LOWER LEVY INTENDED
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO REDUCE THE RATE OF LEVY UNDER THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS AND OF QUARRY PRODUCTS PRODUCED, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HO SAI-CHU AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR HENDERSON SAID IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE RATE OF LEVY BE REDUCED BY 25 PER CENT FROM 0.2 PER CENT TO 0.15 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS IN EXCESS OF \$1 MILLION, AND OF QUARRY PRODUCTS TO 0.15 PER CENT WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 6, 1986.

HE SAID HE INTENDED TO INTRODUCE THE NECESSARY RESOLUTION IN THE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 4.

+ IF APPROVED, THE REDUCTION WOULD BE GAZETTED ON DECEMBER 6 AND COME INTO EFFECT ONE MONTH LATER, + HE ADDED.

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SAI KUNG'S REFUSE HAWKING PROBLEMS UNDER CONTROL

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DUE TO ITS GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURE AND POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, THE PROBLEMS OF REFUSE COLLECTION AND ILLEGAL HAWKING WERE GENERALLY UNDER BETTER CONTROL IN SAI KUNG THAN OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE NON-URBAN AREA.

AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT (SAI KUNG), MR DAN BING-TO, SAID THAT THERE WERE ONLY 25 LICENSED AND ABOUT 15 UNLICENSED HAWKERS IN THE DISTRICT.

+WITH THE COMMISSIONING OF THE NEW SAI KUNG MARKET ON APRIL 1, AND THE SUBSEQUENT HAWKER RESITING AND CLEARANCES BETWEEN APRIL AND JULY 1985, THE HAWKER SITUATION IN THE TOWNSHIP HAS BEEN COMPLETELY STABILISED, + HE ADDED.

AS ONE OF THE MOST SPARSELY POPULATED DISTRICTS IN THE REGION, ITS 48 000 RESIDENTS GENERATED ONLY AN AVERAGE OF 35 TONNES OF REFUSE AND JUNK EACH DAY. THESE WERE COLLECTED BY SIX SPECIALISED REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES AND DISPOSED OF AT THE JUNK BAY CONTROLLED TIP IN HANG HAU.

MR DAN SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL STREET SWEEPING, REFUSE COLLECTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF 78 REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS AND 114 PUBLIC TOILETS/BATHHOUSES, SPECIAL CLEARANCE OF PICNIC SPOTS WERE UNDERTAKEN WEEKLY TO CLEAN UP THE LITTER AND REFUSE LEFT BY PICNICKERS IN MANY OF THE DISTRICT'S SCENIC SPOTS.

+DISTRICT HYGIENE WORK INVOLVES THE REGULAR AND SURPRISE INSPECTION OF 148 LICENSED PREMISES, DETECTION AND ABATEMENT OF SANITARY NUISANCES, RODENT AND PEST CONTROL, WATER HYGIENE FOR DRINKING AND SWIMMING SAFETY, FOOD HYGIENE, AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST UNLICENSED BUSINESS, + MR DAN SAID.

LEISURE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN THE DISTRICT INCLUDED LIFEGUARD SERVICES, THE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF DOZENS OF PUBLIC PLEASURE GROUNDS, AND EIGHT GAZETTED BEACHES, DISTRICT LEISURE MANAGER, MR CHARLES CHU, SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE ORGANISATION AND PROMOTION OF RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT AND THE MANAGEMENT OF TWO OUTDOOR RECREATION CAMPS AND A WATER SPORTS CENTRE.

+DURING THE PERIOD APRIL TO AUGUST 1985 A TOTAL OF 69 PROJECTS OF VARIOUS TYPES OF RECREATION AND SPORTS PROGRAMMES WERE ORGANISED, ATTRACTING 3 709 PARTICIPANTS. THE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDED SPORTS TRAINING CLASSES, COMPETITIONS, REMOTE VILLAGE SPORTS SCHEMES, SPORTS DAYS AND EXCURSIONS, + MR CHU SAID.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1985

- 14 -

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE RECORDED 40 459 VISITORS, THE LADY MACLEHOSE HOLIDAY VILLAGE 38 752 AND THE CHONG HING WATER SPORTS CENTRE 11 791.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT CENTRED ON THE SAI KUNG PUBLIC LIBRARY WHICH CARRIED A STOCK OF 32 902 BOOKS AND 1 675 ITEMS OF AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS. IT ALSO ORGANISED A WIDE RANGE OF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES INCLUDING STORY-TELLING, INTEREST CLUBS, BOOK EXHIBITIONS, SUBJECT TALKS, MINI-CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, MUSIC APPRECIATION AND FILM SHOWS.

FREE ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES SUCH AS CHINESE OPERATIC SONGS, VARIETY SHOWS, POP CONCERTS, PUPPET SHOWS AND OTHER POPULAR PRESENTATIONS WERE ARRANGED AT THE MAN YEE REHOUSING AREA PLAYGROUND ONCE A MONTH, ATTRACTING 100 TO 300 AUDIENCE EACH TIME.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

CS TO VISIT JUNK BAY

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WILL VISIT THE JUNK BAY DEVELOPMENT SITE TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE VISIT. TRANSPORT TO THE SITE FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE CGO CARPARK AT 1 PM.

BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULT ACCESS TO THE SITE, THOSE WISHING TO USE THEIR OWN TRANSPORT SHOULD MEET THE OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTY OUTSIDE THE KWUN TONG POLICE STATION (AT THE JUNCTION OF LEI YUE MUN ROAD AND JUNK BAY ROAD) AT 1.20 PM.

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COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER DEVELOPMENT OF VACANT SITE

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MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VACANT SITE IN FORTUNE STREET AT THEIR MEETING THIS FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 15).

MEMBERS WOULD CONSIDER TWO PROPOSALS -- EITHER TO DEVELOP THE 10 000-SQUARE-METRE SITE INTO A CARPARK, OR AS A TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA FOR 850 PERSONS.

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- 15 -

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WOULD ALSO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF AN OPINION SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE GREEN PAPER ON HOUSING SUBSIDY TO TENANTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING.

THE TENANCY RIGHTS FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA SINGLETONS AFTER MARRIAGE WOULD BE ANOTHER TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE SAFETY MEASURES AT GAS STATIONS IN THE POPULOUS AREAS, FIRE PROTECTION FACILITIES AND AMBULANCE SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT, AND MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING AS OBSERVERS AND RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE BY TELEPHONING 3-7204251 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD, TO BE HELD AT 2.15 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 15) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AT 39 TONKIN STREET.

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SHOPS URGED TO TIGHTEN UP ON SECURITY
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THE IMPORTANCE OF SECURITY MEASURES WERE RELAYED TO SHOP OPERATORS IN TAI PO, WHEN MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE VISITED THEIR SHOPS THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR CARLOS CHEUNG, TAI PO'S +FIGHT CRIME AMBASSADOR+ MISS CHEUNG TAK-LAN VISITED TWO GOLDSMITH SHOPS AND TWO WATCH COMPANIES.

DURING THE TOUR, POLICE OFFICERS NOTED VARIOUS SECURITY LOOPHOLES AND ADVISED OPERATORS TO STEP UP CRIME PREVENTION MEASURES.

THE SHA TIN POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER, MR LEE YU-YIN, THE TAI PO ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (COMMUNITY AFFAIRS), MISS ANISSA WONG, THE CONVENOR OF THE CRIME PREVENTION WORKING GROUP, MR CHAN WING-WO, AND GROUP MEMBERS ALSO TOOK PART IN TODAY'S VISIT.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1985

- 16 -

CAREERS EXHIBITION TO BE OPENED
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A CEREMONY TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S 14TH ANNUAL CAREERS INFORMATION EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE CITY HALL EXHIBITION HALL AT 3 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 15).

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, MR CHEN SHOU-LUM= THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR H.M.G. FORSGATE= AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR RON BRIDGE.

ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DAILY BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 6.30 PM FROM SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 16) TO NOVEMBER 25.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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BOARD TO DISCUSS TRAM DEPOT
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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED TRAM DEPOT TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT A SITE IN THE WESTERN RECLAMATION NEAR THE WHITTY STREET TRAM TERMINUS.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF THE HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1985

- 17 -

TSUEN WAN TRAFFIC RE-ROUTED
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ONE-WAY EASTBOUND TRAFFIC WILL BE INTRODUCED AT MA KOK STREET BETWEEN WANG LUNG STREET AND LUNG TAK STREET IN TSUEN WAN FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 16).

ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC WILL BE INTRODUCED AT SHEK WAI KOK ESTATE ACCESS ROAD BETWEEN TEXACO ROAD AND THE ACCESS ROAD WEST OF SHEK LAN HOUSE.

TRAFFIC ON TEXACO ROAD SOUTHBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED TO TRAVEL VIA TSUEN KAM INTERCHANGE.

MEANWHILE, SHEK WAI KOK ESTATE ACCESS ROAD BETWEEN CHEUNG PEI SHAN ROAD AND A POINT 110 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TEXACO ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED A RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY STARTING FROM 10 AM ON THE SAME DAY.

VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

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EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH CLOSURE
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EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH IN CENTRAL WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 8 AM TO 6 PM DAILY ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 16), NOVEMBER 17, 23 AND 24 FOR A CAREER SHOW TO BE HELD.

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LORRY PARKING SPACES SUSPENDED
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LORRY PARKING SPACES IN SANMUNG AVENUE IN FANLING BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 50 AND 70 WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS FROM 8 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 15) TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

LORRIES CAN MAKE USE OF THE PARKING SPACES IN LUNG SUM AVENUE OR SAN SHING AVENUE.

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