DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONTENTS PAGE NO.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY NOW PUTS GDP GROWTH AT EIGHT PER CENT 1
JOBLESS RATE DECLINES 4
GOVERNOR STRESSES NEED FOR MANAGEMENT TRAINING 6
GOVERNOR LEAVING FOR UK 8
PUBLIC WARNED ABOUT HERBAL PILL 8
UNOFFICIAL HEADS NEW COMMITTEE 9
OPTICAL GOODS GEARED FOR MORE GROWTH 10
A FURTHER STEP TOWARDS DEMOCRACY 11
TEACHERS BACK GREEN PAPER 12
FIVE LABOUR MP'S DUE SUNDAY 13
DB TO DISCUSS KWUN TONG TRAFFIC 13
GALA EFFORT TO GET MORE VOTERS 14
POST OFFICE 98 TO BE OPENED 14
NEW I.D. CARD PHASE STARTS SOON 15
NEW +SOFT-SELL+ IN ANTI-SMOKING DRIVE 16
CAMPS AVAILABLE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS 16
DTC SUSPENDED 17
LANTAU BUS TURNAROUND PLANNED 17
WORK TO START ON LINK ROAD 18
KANSU STREET TO BE RECONSTRUCTED 18
TAXI STAND 19
WATER MAINS WORK 19

FINANCIAL SECRETARY NOW PUTS GDP GROWTH AT EIGHT PER CENT

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, FORECAST TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN 1984 WOULD GROW BY EIGHT PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, UP FROM HIS FEBRUARY BUDGET PREDICTION OF SIX PER CENT.

PER CAPITA GDP AT CURRENT PRICES IS NOW FORECAST TO BE OVER $45 000, REPRESENTING AN ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 17 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS OR SEVEN PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

SPEAKING AT THE DINNER OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, SIR JOHN SAID THAT HIS UPWARD REVISION WAS BASED ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ECONOMY SO FAR THIS YEAR AND THE GENERALLY IMPROVING ECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS.

HE ANTICIPATED THAT DOMESTIC EXPORTS WOULD GROW BY 18 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS THIS YEAR AND RE-EXPORTS BY 25 PER CENT, MAKING A 20 PER CENT EXPANSION FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, COMPARED WITH A 16 PER CENT GROWTH IN IMPORTS.

THESE REVISED GROWTH RATES OF THE TRADE AGGREGATES HAVE A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE EFFECT ON HONG KONG'S GDP GROWTH, HE EXPLAINED.

OVERALL EXPENDITURE ON PLANT, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT IS NOW FORECAST TO INCREASE BY 17 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS THIS YEAR, UP FROM HIS BUDGET ESTIMATE OF ONLY SIX PER CENT.

ON THE EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM, SIR JOHN REAFFIRMED THAT THE PRESENT LINK AT HK$7.8 TO THE US DOLLAR +WILL NOT LIGHTLY BE CHANGED.+

+LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE GLOBAL STRENGTH OF THE US DOLLAR, THE TRADE WEIGHTED VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR HAS STRENGTHENED BY OVER 10 PER CENT SINCE LAST OCTOBER WHEN THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM WAS INTRODUCED.

+DESPITE CRITICISMS AND RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED BY SOME, INCLUDING PEOPLE PRESENT HERE TONIGHT, THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR HAS FOR MOST OF THE TIME MOVED WITHIN A NARROW RANGE OF HK$7.78 TO HK$7.85 PER US DOLLAR.

+THIS INDICATES THAT THE AIM OF THE SYSTEM — WHICH IS TO STABILISE THE EXCHANGE RATE AND TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR — HAS LARGELY BEEN ACHIEVED. A VARIATION OF ABOUT ONE HALF OF ONE PER CENT IS HARDLY EXCESSIVE,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

/THE GROWING .....

THE GROWING STRENGTH OF THE US DOLLAR OVER THE PAST FIVE MONTHS WAS DUE MAINLY TO HIGH US DOLLAR INTEREST RATES AND EVER REMOTER EXPECTATIONS OF ANY IMMEDIATE FALL, GIVEN THE PERSISTENT US BUDGET DEFICIT AND THE UNEXPECTEDLY STRONG PERFORMANCE OF THE US ECONOMY.

SIR JOHN SAID THAT THERE WAS THUS A SUBSTANTIAL SWITCHING OUT OF THE HONG KONG UNIT BY DEPOSITORS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE YEAR, WITH THE RESULT THAT BETWEEN MID-MARCH AND EARLY AUGUST, MARKET INTEREST RATES TENDED TO RISE AND HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSIT RATES WERE REVISED UPWARDS ON SIX OCCASIONS.

AFTER THE TWO REDUCTIONS IN AUGUST, THE ADMINISTERED RATES ARE NOW SIMILAR TO THOSE PREVAILING AT THE END OF LAST DECEMBER, HE NOTED.

+I AM WELL AWARE OF THE BURDEN OF HIGH INTEREST RATES ON INVESTMENT INTENTIONS AND ON COMPANIES WITH LARGE DEBTS, AND OF THEIR ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY.

+EQUALLY, HOWEVER, WE CANNOT EXPECT THAT SAVERS AND OTHER DEPOSITORS WILL NECESSARILY BE WILLING TO HOLD HONG KONG DOLLARS UNLESS LOCAL DEPOSIT RATES OFFER A REASONABLE RETURN AND ARE SUFFICIENTLY COMPETITIVE WITH RATES OVERSEAS, PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED STATES.

+IF WE WANT A STABLE EXCHANGE RATE, AND WE DO, WE ALSO HAVE TO STOMACH THE CONSEQUENCES FOR INTEREST RATES,+ HE SAID.

ON THE OVERALL EMPLOYMENT SITUATION, HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE THREE MONTHS TO JULY THIS YEAR, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 3.4 PER CENT AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.9 PER CENT, SUGGESTING EFFECTIVELY FULL EMPLOYMENT.

+I THUS EXPECT THAT OUR LABOUR FORCE WILL BENEFIT, AS THEY SHOULD, FROM THE EXPORT-LED ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND THEIR HARD WORK,+ HE ADDED.

ALTHOUGH THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR ROSE ON AVERAGE BY 10 PER CENT OVER LAST YEAR'S CORRESPONDING PERIOD, THE RATE OF INCREASE HAS SLOWED DOWN SINCE JANUARY WHEN IT WAS 12.4 PER CENT.

+THIS MODERATION IN THE RATE OF INFLATION INDICATES THAT THE ADVERSE EFFECT ON IMPORT PRICES OF THE SHARP DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR UP TO SEPTEMBER 1983 HAS WORKED THROUGH COMPLETELY TO THE RETAIL LEVEL. WITH CONTINUING STABILITY IN THE EXCHANGE RATE, I BELIEVE THAT THE RATE OF INFLATION WILL EASE FURTHER IN THE COMING MONTHS,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

/WHILE BELIEVING .....

WHILE BELIEVING THAT HIS BUDGET FORECAST OF A DOWNWARD TREND TO ABOUT SEVEN PER CENT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR WOULD BE ACHIEVED, HE SAID, +IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN OUR SUCCESS NEXT YEAR. SEVEN PER CENT REMAINS TOO HIGH.+

SIR JOHN SAID THAT GOVERNMENT REVENUES STILL FELT THE EFFECT OF THE 1982 RECESSION, NOTABLY BECAUSE OF THE DEPRESSED STATE OF THE PROPERTY MARKET AND THE POOR PERFORMANCE OF SOME COMPANIES.

HOWEVER, EVEN WITHOUT TAKING THE SUCCESSFUL $1 BILLION BOND ISSUE INTO ACCOUNT, HE EXPECTED AN +APPRECIABLY SMALLER+ DEFICIT THAN THE BUDGETED $2.1 BILLION FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

HE SAID THAT THE LATEST PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF EXPENDITURE ON CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT IN 1984-85, BASED ON PERFORMANCE OVER THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS, IS $42.4 BILLION, A DECREASE OF UP TO $1.6 BILLION BELOW THE BUDGET ESTIMATE.

+IF THIS IS PROVED TO BE CORRECT IN THE COURSE OF TIME, AS COMPARED WITH THE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE OF $38.7 BILLION FOR 1983-84, IT WILL IMPLY AN INCREASE OF 9.6 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS, OR ONLY ABOUT TWO PER CENT IN REAL TERMS. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE PUBLIC SECTOR WILL BE AT LEAST SIMILARLY CONSTRAINED NEXT YEAR,+ HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, THERE IS NEVERTHELESS AN OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT OF ABOUT $20.3 BILLION FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN HAND.

+THIS REPRESENTS A CONTINUING INVESTMENT IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND ILLUSTRATES THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRM INTENTION OF INVESTING VIGOROUSLY IN THE FUTURE.

+I HAVE NO TIME FOR STOP AND GO TACTICS. CALMNESS AND STEADINESS OF PURPOSE ARE ESSENTIAL, AND WE REMAIN WELL ON OUR PLANNED COURSE -- DESPITE A SERIES OF TROPICAL STORMS,+ SIR JOHN STATED.

ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF HIS REVISED GDP FORECAST, SIR JOHN SAID THAT ECONOMIC GROWTH WOULD CONTINUE TO BE EXPORT-LED THIS YEAR.

+AS DOMESTIC DEMAND REMAINS MODERATE, AGGREGATE DEMAND IN THE ECONOMY IS NOT IMPOSING UNDUE PRESSURE ON AGGREGATE SUPPLY OF RESOURCES AND HENCE, ON THE GENERAL PRICE LEVEL. THE FORECAST INCREASES IN THE GDP DEFLATOR AND IN THE CPI REMAIN AT NINE PER CENT, AS GIVEN IN THE BUDGET,+ HE SAID.

WITH THE NEW GDP ESTIMATE AND THE LIKELY DOWNWARD REVISION TO THE EXPENDITURE ON THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT, THE FORECAST OF THE RELATIVE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR IS FURTHER REDUCED TO ABOUT 17.5 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH HIS BUDGET ESTIMATE OF 18.3 PER CENT.

/+THE COMPARATIVE .....

+THE COMPARATIVE FIGURE IN 1983-84 WAS 19.4 PER CENT. THE PUBLIC, HAVING HAD TO MEET INCREASED TAXATION, WILL WELCOME THIS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT GOVERNMENT IS PLAYING ITS PART IN MOVING BACK TO BALANCED BUDGET,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

THE PUBLIC SECTOR'S SHARE OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT IS NEVERTHELESS NOW FORECAST TO INCREASE FROM 48 PER CENT IN 1983 TO 52 PER CENT IN 1984, LARGELY AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUED CONTRACTION IN PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITY IN THIS FIELD, HE ADDED.

WITH THE GROWTH RATE OF TOTAL EXPORTS NOW FORECAST TO EXCEED THAT OF IMPORTS IN VALUE TERMS, SIR JOHN EXPECTED THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP TO NARROW, FROM NINE PER CENT IN 1983 TO 5.3 PER CENT IN 1984.

NOTING THAT TRADE REPRESENTS ABOUT 163 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S GDP, HE STRESSED THAT A MAJOR FOCUS OF ALL GOVERNMENT POLICY MUST BE THE PROMOTION OF EXPORTS.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 1985 AND 1986, SIR JOHN SAID THAT THE WORLD ECONOMY WAS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO GROW, THOUGH PROBABLY AT A SLOWER PACE.

IN PARTICULAR, A SLOWING DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE US ECONOMY WAS WIDELY PREDICTED, WITH CONSEQUENTIAL EFFECTS ON HONG KONG'S EXPORT GROWTH, HE SAID. BUT HE ADDED THAT TO SOME EXTENT, THIS WOULD BE BALANCED BY INCREASED EXPORTS TO CHINA.

+I MUST UNDERLINE THE RAPID AND SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF HONG KONG'S TRADING AND COMMERCIAL LINKS WITH CHINA. I AM SURE THAT THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE. I BELIEVE INDEED THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SCOPE FOR INCREASING LINKS AND COOPERATION, TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH ECONOMIES,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

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JOBLESS RATE DECLINES

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THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE MAY-JULY QUARTER, COMPARED WITH THE EARLY PART OF THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MAY-JULY WAS 3.4 PER CENT, WHICH COMPARES WITH 4.1 PER CENT FOR THE FEBRUARY-APRIL QUARTER AND 3.9 PER CENT FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF 1983.

/THE DECREASES .....

THE DECREASES OF 0.7 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND OF 0.5 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR WERE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT, THAT IS, THE DECREASES WERE GREATER THAN COULD BE EXPLAINED BY SAMPLING ERROR, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE QUARTER ENDING JULY, WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 90 200, AS COMPARED WITH 103 800 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING IN APRIL, AND 99 900 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN COMMENTED THAT THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 3.4 PER CENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JULY 1984 WAS VERY LOW, SUGGESTING THAT THE LABOUR FORCE MIGHT HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY FULLY EMPLOYED.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MAY-JULY WAS 0.9 PER CENT WHILE THAT FOR FEBRUARY-APRIL WAS 1.2 PER CENT. THE DROP WAS ALSO STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT. THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF 1983 WAS 1.7 PER CENT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS WAS 23 200 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JULY, AS COMPARED WITH 31 200 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING APRIL, AND 42 400 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION, PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE SEEKING MORE WORK OR WERE NOT SEEKING MORE WORK BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED MORE WORK WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

COMMENTING UPON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (E.G. PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WHICH HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FOR THE VARIATION IN FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

BASED ON A SYSTEM OF MANUAL EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION FROM SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE LATEST MONTH, PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST MOVING THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY, HE SAID.

THE PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) FOR JUNE-AUGUST WAS 3.9 PER CENT, AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.9 PER CENT. HOWEVER, THE PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE MAY CHANGE AFTER SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT. THE UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MAY-JULY WAS 3.7 PER CENT.

/THE UNEMPLOYMENT .....

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 15 000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 55 000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG. PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER IN THE HOUSEHOLD SAMPLED.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING IN SEPTEMBER SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE LATE IN DECEMBER.

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GOVERNOR STRESSES NEED FOR MANAGEMENT TRAINING

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INCREASING EMPHASIS WAS BEING PLACED ON MANAGEMENT TRAINING TO ENSURE THE HIGH QUALITY OF WORK OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY.

SUCH TRAINING WAS NECESSARY TO COPE WITH THE DIVERSITY AND COMPLEXITY OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ACCOMPANYING THE PACE OF HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE FIRST SENIOR STAFF COURSE AT THE CHINA FLEET CLUB AUDITORIUM, SIR EDWARD SAID IT WAS DESIGNED TO PREPARE MID-CAREER CIVIL SERVANTS FOR SENIOR DIRECTORATE RESPONSIBILITIES.

IT WAS AN IMPORTANT NEW PROJECT WHOSE VALUE WOULD BE DEMONSTRATED AND TESTED BY THE CONTRIBUTION IT MADE TO BETTER MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

+I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IN THE YEARS TO COME THAT CONTRIBUTION WILL BE A SUBSTANTIAL ONE,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

A SMALL NUMBER OF SENIOR OFFICERS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SENT EACH YEAR TO ATTEND COURSES OVERSEAS. BUT THERE WAS ALSO A NEED TO CONDUCT HONG KONG'S OWN SENIOR MANAGEMENT TRAINING +IN-HOUSE+, TO ENABLE GREATER NUMBERS OF OFFICERS TO BENEFIT, AND SO THAT COURSES COULD BE TAILORED TO HONG KONG'S SPECIAL NEEDS, HE SAID.

/FOLLOWING IS .....

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:

+I AM PLEASED TO ATTEND TODAY THE OPENING OF THE FIRST SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE STAFF COURSE, DESIGNED TO PREPARE MID-CAREER CIVIL SERVANTS FOR SENIOR DIRECTORATE RESPONSIBILITIES. I REFERRED TO THIS PROJECT IN MY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST OCTOBER; I AM NATURALLY DELIGHTED THAT THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO CONCEIVED, PLANNED AND ORGANISED THESE COURSES SHOULD NOW BE REWARDED WITH SUCCESS.

+THE PACE OF HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAST FEW DECADES HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY AN INCREASE BOTH IN THE DIVERSITY AND COMPLEXITY OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, AND IN THE SIZE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE. TRAINING IS ESSENTIAL IF OUR CIVIL SERVANTS ARE TO BE PROPERLY EQUIPPED WITH THE SKILLS THEY NEED FOR THE JOB. THIS YEAR THE GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING WILL BE ABOUT $600 MILLION; MORE THAN 80 000 TRAINEES WILL ATTEND COURSES ORGANISED BY OVER 100 TRAINING SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS.

+BUT IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT JUST TO TRAIN ENOUGH CIVIL SERVANTS. IF THE COMMUNITY IS TO BE GIVEN THE SERVICE IT DESERVES, THE WORK OF THE CIVIL SERVICE MUST BE OF HIGH QUALITY AND TO BE OF HIGH QUALITY IT MUST BE WELL ORGANISED AND USE THE BEST TECHNIQUES. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT IN RECENT YEARS THE GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED INCREASING EMPHASIS ON MANAGEMENT TRAINING, ESPECIALLY FOR OFFICERS WHO ARE EXPECTED TO FILL SENIOR DIRECTORATE POSTS IN THE FUTURE. EACH YEAR WE SEND A SMALL NUMBER OF SENIOR OFFICERS TO ATTEND COURSES OVERSEAS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE USE OF THESE OVERSEAS TRAINING PROGRAMMES, BUT THERE IS ALSO A NEED TO CONDUCT OUR OWN SENIOR MANAGEMENT TRAINING +IN-HOUSE+, TO ENABLE GREATER NUMBERS OF OFFICERS TO BENEFIT, AND SO THAT COURSES CAN BE TAILORED TO HONG KONG'S SPECIAL NEEDS. THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE STAFF COURSE IS DESIGNED TO MEET THESE NEEDS.

+THE COURSE IS AN IMPORTANT NEW PROJECT FOR HONG KONG. ITS VALUE WILL BE DEMONSTRATED AND TESTED BY THE CONTRIBUTION IT MAKES TO BETTER MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IN THE YEARS TO COME THAT CONTRIBUTION WILL BE A SUBSTANTIAL ONE. IN CONCLUSION, I CONGRATULATE THE CHAIRMAN, THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD, THE DIRECTOR OF STUDIES AND HIS STAFF ON THE SUCCESSFUL COMMENCEMENT OF THE FIRST COURSE. I CONGRATULATE TOO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE COURSE ON THEIR SELECTION. I WISH YOU ALL EVERY SUCCESS.+

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GOVERNOR LEAVING FOR UK

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL LEAVE FOR LONDON TOMORROW (SATURDAY) FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH MINISTERS ON THE NEGOTIATION IN PEKING ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

HE WILL BE FOLLOWED ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 17) BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, TOGETHER WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, AND THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR PETER TSAO.

SIR EDWARD WILL BE TRAVELLING ON FLIGHT CX 201, ETD 10.50 PM.

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PUBLIC WARNED ABOUT HERBAL PILL

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADVISED THE PUBLIC TODAY NOT TO TAKE THE CHINESE HERBAL PILL - +ANTI-COLD PILLS+ - WHICH IS FOUND TO CONTAIN A BANNED POISON, AMINOPYRINE.

THIS HERBAL PREPARATION FOR TREATING COLDS AND INFLUENZA IS A PRODUCT OF BAI YUN SHAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTORY IN GUANGZHOU.

AMINOPYRINE HAS BEEN BANNED IN HONG KONG SINCE JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR, UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID USE OF AMINOPYRINE AS A REMEDY FOR FEVER OR PAIN POSED RISKS OF +AGRANULOCYTOSIS+.

THE POISON WAS DETECTED IN THE +ANTI-COLD PILLS+ DURING ROUTINE MONITORING OF CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG.

THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALREADY ASKED THE IMPORTER TO WITHDRAW THE MEDICINE FROM THE MARKET, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MEANWHILE, STAFF FROM THE FORENSIC PHARMACY DIVISION HAVE BEEN VISITING DRUG RETAILERS TO SEE IF THIS HERBAL MEDICINE IS ON SALE.

DRUG STORE OWNERS WERE URGED TO SURRENDER STOCKS OF THE HERBAL MEDICINE TO THE FORENSIC PHARMACY SECTION.

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UNOFFICIAL HEADS NEW COMMITTEE

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APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR OF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE NEW TERM BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 1984 ARE ANNOUNCED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY. THE COMMITTEE IS CHAIRED FOR THE FIRST TIME BY AN UNOFFICIAL.

THE FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, OBE, JP (CHAIRMAN)

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE (VICE-CHAIRMAN)

THE HON MRS PAULINE NG

MISS AGATHA CHAN MO-YIN

MRS PAMELA CHAN WONG SHUI

MR CHAU HOW-CHEN, MBE, JP

DR NELSON CHOW

MRS CECILIA LEE IP WAI-KAY

MR LEE CHIK-YUET

MR LEE JARK-PUI, JP

MR L.B. MACQUARRIE

DR PANG HOK-TUEN

MISS ANNA WU HUNG-YUK

THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE -

(A) TO KEEP SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES UNDER CONTINUOUS REVIEW; AND

(B) TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, ON ALL MATTERS OF SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY.

/A SPOKESMAN .....

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH ADDED THAT ADVICE ON THE ACTUAL ALLOCATION OF GOVERNMENT SUBVENTIONS TO SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES AND OF GRANTS AND LOANS FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND WILL CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN BY A SEPARATE COMMITTEE WORKING WITHIN THE PRIORITIES AND POLICY GUIDELINES LAID DOWN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

HOWEVER, WHEREAS THIS SEPARATE COMMITTEE WAS PREVIOUSLY ONLY A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, IT WILL IN FUTURE BE UPGRADED TO A COMMITTEE IN ITS OWN RIGHT, AND WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE. IT WILL BE CALLED THE SUBVENTIONS AND LOTTERIES FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE, HE SAID.

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OPTICAL GOODS GEARED FOR MORE GROWTH

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THE OPTICAL INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG IS EXPECTED TO EXPAND FURTHER AND PLAY A LARGER PART IN THE LOCAL INDUSTRIAL SCENE.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO WHEN HE OPENED THE FOUR-DAY HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL OPTICS FAIR AT THE HONG KONG EXHIBITION CENTRE.

+TWENTY YEARS AGO, OUR EXPORTS OF OPTICAL GOODS AMOUNTED TO ABOUT $8 MILLION ONLY. BY 1973, HOWEVER, THEY WERE $28 MILLION, AND BY 1983 THEY HAD REACHED $355 MILLION. INDICATIONS ARE THAT EXPORTS THIS YEAR WILL AGAIN REGISTER IMPRESSIVE GROWTH AND THUS SET YET ANOTHER RECORD,+ MR HO SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE INDUSTRY WAS STILL RELATIVELY SMALL IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT AND ITS SHARE OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS, IT IS BELIEVED TO BE AN INDUSTRY WELL SUITED TO HONG KONG.

MR HO SAID THAT MANUFACTURERS OPERATING HERE MUST KEEP THEMSELVES INFORMED ABOUT THE LATEST TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INDUSTRY, AND TAKE THE INVESTMENT DECISIONS REQUIRED TO KEEP UP WITH THEM.

+I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF OVERSEAS PARTICIPANTS AT THIS FAIR, WHICH I TAKE AS A SIGN THAT THE POTENTIAL OF OUR OPTICAL INDUSTRY, AND OF HONG KONG AS A MARKET, HAVE GAINED INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION,+ MR HO SAID.

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A FURTHER STEP TOWARDS DEMOCRACY
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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING THAT REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WAS A STEP FURTHER ALONG THE PATH TO DEMOCRACY IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT A DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION PUBLICITY CONCERT IN YUEN LONG, MR HSU SAID THAT ITS SUCCESS WOULD DEPEND ON POPULAR SUPPORT.

+SOME NEW DEVELOPMENTS NEXT APRIL, SUCH AS INCREASING THE NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS ON DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE SETTING UP OF A NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL, WOULD FORM A STRONG BASIS FOR REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR HSU URGED PEOPLE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER AS VOTERS AND TO TAKE PART IN THE ELECTIONS NEXT MARCH.

+DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, PROMOTED THROUGH THE DISTRICT BOARDS, HAS GIVEN RESIDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MONITOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND CO-ORDINATION OF AFFAIRS IN THEIR DISTRICTS,+ MR HSU SAID.

+IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE PROVED THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF IMPROVING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND OF REFLECTING PUBLIC OPINION ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND ISSUES THAT AFFECT RESIDENTS,+ HE ADDED.

WITH THE SUCCESS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS, THE GOVERNMENT IS SPEEDING UP THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY, AND FROM NEXT APRIL, MOST DISTRICT BOARDS WILL HAVE TWO-THIRDS OF THEIR MEMBERS ELECTED.

MR HSU DESCRIBED THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER AS THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE HISTORY OF HONG KONG'S POLITICAL REFORM.

+AT PRESENT, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO QUANTIFY THE EXTENT TO WHICH THESE CHANGES WILL AFFECT OUR POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE EFFECTS WILL BE FAR REACHING,+ HE SAID.

+THE RESPONSE FROM ALL SECTORS HAD BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC, SHOWING THAT THE PUBLIC WERE NO LONGER APATHETIC TOWARDS PUBLIC AFFAIRS, HE ADDED.

TONIGHT'S CONCERT, ORGANISED BY THE YUEN LONG JAYCEES AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE, WAS PART OF A MAJOR CAMPAIGN IN THE DISTRICT DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE MORE YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL AFFAIRS.

PRIOR TO THE CONCERT, ORGANISERS WERE OUT IN FORCE TO HELP PARTICIPANTS REGISTER AS VOTERS.

IT WAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 2 500 PEOPLE.

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TEACHERS BACK GREEN PAPER
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VIEWS EXPRESSED AT RECENT SEMINARS IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT SHOW THAT SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS SUPPORT THE GREEN PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

THE SEMINARS, ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE LAST WEEK, WERE ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM 54 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE SAID PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT INITIALLY THERE SHOULD BE INDIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+IN FACT, SCHOOL PRINCIPALS THOUGHT THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE 1991, WHILE TEACHERS REGARDED DIRECT ELECTIONS AS A MUST FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A REVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN 1987 OR 1989,+ HE SAID.

+THERE WERE ALSO SUGGESTIONS THAT GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD BE MORE CLEARLY DEFINED TO AVOID POSSIBLE CONFUSION WITH FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES,+ HE ADDED.

FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS FROM TEACHERS THAT MORE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON CIVIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, A SPECIAL MEETING HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR SEPTEMBER 28 WHEN REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE WILL MEET THE TEACHERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

LAST WEEK'S SEMINARS, SPECIALLY ARRANGED FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS, WERE PART OF DISCUSSIONS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO COLLECT PUBLIC OPINION ON THE GREEN PAPER.

IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS, 16 MEETINGS WERE HELD AND ATTENDED BY PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE GREEN PAPER WAS ALSO DISCUSSED AT A DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AS WELL AS SIX AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

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FIVE LABOUR MP'S DUE SUNDAY

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FIVE LABOUR MP'S WILL ARRIVE ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 16) FOR AN EIGHT-DAY VISIT.

THEY ARE MR BRYAN GOULD, MR STUART BELL, MISS BETTY BOOTHROYD, MR GEORGE FOULKES AND MR SEAN HUGHES.

THEIR PROGRAMME INCLUDES MEETINGS WITH UMELCO, THE URBAN COUNCIL, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, TRADE ORGANISATIONS, CIVIL SERVICE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS, AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES.

THE MP'S WILL VISIT LOCAL FACTORIES, THE CHI MA WAN CLOSED CENTRE FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, AND A NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT WHERE THEY WILL MEET THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS. THEY WILL ALSO SEE HOW HONG KONG COPES WITH ITS HOUSING PROBLEMS AND MEET INFORMALLY WITH THE CHAIRMEN OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES.

THEY WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 22 AND DEPART THE FOLLOWING DAY.

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DB TO DISCUSS KWUN TONG TRAFFIC

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KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE CURRENT EAST KOWLOON TRAFFIC STUDY AT THEIR MEETING ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 17) AFTERNOON.

THEY WILL THEN COMMENT ON THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT PROVISIONS IN THE DISTRICT, AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS ON AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THE STUDY WAS LAUNCHED IN LATE JULY TO IDENTIFY AND ASSESS THE PRESENT AND FUTURE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS IN EAST KOWLOON.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR K.S. LI, AND ENGINEER OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT SURVEY DIVISION, MR I.S. MAHALINGAM, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE RENT INCREASE IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

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GALA EFFORT TO GET MORE VOTERS

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POPULAR TELEVISION ARTISTES, CARTOON CHARACTERS, GIRL GUIDES AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE URGING PEOPLE TO REGISTER AS VOTERS AT A SPECIAL GALA ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 16) AT THE TAIKOO SHING CITY PLAZA.

A VARIETY SHOW HAS ALSO BEEN PLANNED FOR THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION GALA ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD.

THOSE WHO SIGN UP CAN, ALONG WITH THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS, HAVE THEIR PICTURES TAKEN FREE WITH THEIR FAVOURITE TV PERSONALITIES. SPONSORED BY KODAK (FAR EAST) LIMITED, THE PICTURE SESSION IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100 PERSONS WHO REGISTER AS VOTERS AT THE MOBILE CENTRE.

TWO CARTOON CHARACTERS -- CHUCK E CHEESE AND JASPER -- AND ABOUT 20 TELEVISION ARTISTES WILL BE DISTRIBUTING SOUVENIRS THAT CARRY THE VOTER REGISTRATION MESSAGE.

ABOUT 30 GIRL GUIDES WILL BE IN THE PLAZA TO URGE SHOP OPERATORS, SALESMEN AND SHOPPERS TO REGISTER AS VOTERS.

THE VARIETY SHOW WILL INCLUDE PERFORMANCES BY A VIOLIN BAND FROM THE HONG KONG CHINESE WOMEN'S CLUB HIOE TJO YOENG PRIMARY SCHOOL, SWORD AND RIBBON DANCES, AND KUNG-FU DEMONSTRATIONS BY TELEVISION ARTISTES.

A PHOTO EXHIBITION ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARD WILL ALSO BE PUT ON AT THE PLAZA.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LUI HAU-TUEN WILL OFFICIATE AT A BRIEF OPENING CEREMONY OUTSIDE THE ICE RINK AT 11.30 AM.

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POST OFFICE 98 TO BE OPENED

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A NEW POST OFFICE LOCATED AT THE GROUND FLOOR AND BASEMENT OF HOSEINEE HOUSE, 69 WYNDHAM STREET WILL BE OPENED AT NOON ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 20).

IT WILL BE THE 98TH POST OFFICE IN HONG KONG, AND WILL PROVIDE THE NORMAL RANGE OF COUNTER SERVICES AND ALSO ACCEPT SPEEDPOST ON-DEMAND POSTINGS.

/A SHORT .....

A SHORT CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 11 AM TO MARK THE OPENING.

MR AMBROSE LAU HON-CHUEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MID-LEVELS (CENTRAL) AREA COMMITTEE, AND MR LAWRENCE LAM YIN-MING, CHAIRMAN OF THE SHEUNG WAN (CENTRAL) AREA COMMITTEE WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, TOGETHER WITH THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR HUGH ARDLEY, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER, CENTRAL AND WESTERN, MR K.K. LAM.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF PHILATELISTS, UNREGISTERED +FIRST DAY COVERS+ PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, AND BEARING A LOCAL ADDRESS, WILL BE ACCEPTED OVER THE COUNTER. THE COVERS WILL BE IMPRESSED WITH THE NORMAL POST OFFICE DATESTAMP AND RETURNED.

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NEW I.D. CARD PHASE STARTS SOON

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THE 15TH PHASE OF THE NEW I.D. CARD ISSUE SCHEME WILL BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 24 AND NOVEMBER 3, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

WOMEN BORN IN 1955 AND 1956, INCLUDING GREEN-SEAL CARD HOLDERS, ARE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR NEW I.D. CARDS DURING THE PERIOD.

THE EIGHT ISSUE OFFICES WILL BE OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 9.30 PM, MONDAY TO SATURDAY.

APPLICANTS ARE WELCOME TO USE THE MAIL-IN APPOINTMENT SERVICE.

+ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION FORM FROM ANY DISTRICT OFFICE OR IMMIGRATION OFFICE. THE COMPLETED FORM MUST BE SENT IN AT LEAST TEN DAYS BEFORE THE END OF THE PHASE,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

MEANWHILE, WOMEN BORN IN 1957 AND 1958 WERE REMINDED TO HAVE THEIR I.D. CARDS RENEWED BEFORE THE PRESENT PHASE CLOSES ON SEPTEMBER 22.

+THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE PARTICULARLY BUSY IN THE EVENING, APPLICANTS WHO DO NOT HAVE TO OBSERVE OFFICE HOURS SHOULD TRY TO COME BEFORE 5 PM SO THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS CAN BE SPEEDILY PROCESSED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THERE WILL BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

+ONCE DETECTED, THEY WILL BE REPATRIATED IMMEDIATELY,+ HE SAID.

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NEW +SOFT-SELL+ IN ANTI-SMOKING DRIVE

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GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-SMOKING DRIVE ENTERS ANOTHER PHASE TOMORROW WITH THE RELEASE OF A NEW TELEVISION FILM AND PHOTO DISPLAYS THAT STRESS THE UNACCEPTABLE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SMOKING.

A SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT IT WAS FELT THAT THE PREVIOUS +HARD SELL+ APPROACH, STRESSING THE HEALTH HAZARDS OF SMOKING, HAD ACHIEVED ITS OBJECTIVE, AND THAT THE TIME WAS NOW RIGHT TO ADOPT A +SOFTER APPROACH+.

THE NEW 30-SECOND PUBLICITY FILM DEPICTS AN OFFICE SITUATION WHERE THE BOSS IS RESENTED BY HIS NON-SMOKING STAFF FOR HIS SMOKING HABIT.

RECOGNISING THIS, THE BOSS LATER BREAKS HIS HABIT AND WINS OVER HIS STAFF AGAIN, CREATING A HAPPIER AND HEALTHIER OFFICE ENVIRONMENT.

THE NEW POSTER, BEARING THE MESSAGE: +YOUR SMOKING GETS UP OTHER PEOPLE'S NOSES+, WILL BE WIDELY DISPLAYED FROM TOMORROW AT GOVERNMENT POSTER SITES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

AND THE WHOLE ANTI-SMOKING MESSAGE WILL ALSO BE SPREAD THROUGH RADIO, DISPLAYS AT THE KCR, AND THROUGH GIS MOBILE STREET THEATRE SHOWS.

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CAMPS AVAILABLE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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EIGHT CAMP SITES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO ORGANISE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CAMPS FROM OCTOBER 8 TO JULY 5 NEXT YEAR.

THE PURPOSES OF THE CAMPS ARE TO PROVIDE SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH EXPERIENCE IN SOCIAL LIVING IN A NATURAL OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT, AND TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE INTEGRATION OF SCHOOL SUBJECTS IN CAMPING SITUATIONS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE EIGHT CAMP SITES ARE : GAUDETE HOUSE IN CHEUNG CHAU, SILVERMINE BAY OUTDOOR RECREATION CAMP, Y.W.C.A. YOUTH CAMP IN LANTAO, WU KWAI SHA YOUTH VILLAGE, MA WAN YOUTH CAMP, CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE SUEN DOUH CAMP, PAK TAM CHUNG HOLIDAY CAMP AND HIGH ROCK CHRISTIAN CENTRE. EACH CAMP IS CONDUCTED FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL PAY BOARD AND LODGING CHARGES FOR FIVE TEACHERS ACCOMPANYING UP TO 200 PUPILS, AND A SUBSIDY OF $25 FOR EACH PUPIL-CAMPER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IF TOO MANY REQUESTS ARE RECEIVED, LOTS WILL BE DRAWN TO DETERMINE THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.

/THE SPOKESMAN .....

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ALSO THAT PUPILS WILL HAVE TO PRODUCE WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THEIR PARENTS TO ATTEND THE CAMPS.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 7/F, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON, BY SEPTEMBER 22.

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DTC SUSPENDED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS TODAY SUSPENDED THE REGISTRATION OF ATB FINANCE LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY, ON THE GROUND THAT THE COMPANY HAS MADE A REPORT TO HIM THAT IT IS LIKELY TO BECOME UNABLE TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS.

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LANTAU BUS TURNAROUND PLANNED

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GOVERNMENT PLANS TO BUILD A BUS TURNAROUND AND TEN CAR PARKING SPACES AT THE JUNCTION OF CHI MA WAN ROAD AND SOUTH LANTAU ROAD.

WORK WILL ALSO INVOLVE RECONSTRUCTION AND WIDENING OF CHI MA WAN ROAD NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH SOUTH LANTAU ROAD TO A 6.7-METRE CARRIAGEWAY WITH A 1.5-METRE WIDE FOOTWAY.

THE WHOLE AREA WILL ALSO BE LANDSCAPED.

NOTICE OF THIS IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A PLAN SHOWING THE EXTENT OF THE WORK CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG; THE ISLANDS DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, 14TH FLOOR, DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG; THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, SINCERE BUILDING, 16TH FLOOR, 173 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG; AND THE ISLANDS DISTRICT MUI WO COMMUNITY BRANCH OFFICE, DD 4 LOT 669, GRANDVIEW MANSION, GROUND FLOOR, SHOP D, SOUTH LANTAU ROAD, MUI WO, LANTAU ISLAND.

ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BY NOVEMBER 13.

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WORK TO START ON LINK ROAD

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PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A ONE-WAY SINGLE LANE CARRIAGEWAY, TO CONNECT WINSLOW STREET TO THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF CHATHAM ROAD NORTH AND OTHER ASSOCIATED ROAD MODIFICATION WORKS, WERE PUBLISHED TODAY IN THE GAZETTE.

AT THE SAME TIME, WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING BUS BAY AT CHATHAM ROAD NORTH IMMEDIATELY WEST OF VALLEY ROAD.

THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START IN APRIL NEXT YEAR AND BE COMPLETED BY LATE 1986.

THE NEW ROAD WILL SERVE AS AN EXIT ROUTE FOR TRAFFIC FROM HUNG HOM AREA, INCLUDING THE FUTURE WHAMPOA DOCKYARD REDEVELOPMENT, TO CHATHAM ROAD NORTH EASTBOUND AND THE EAST KOWLOON WAY.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG= AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, YAUMATI MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON= AND AT THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, 141-143 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, 1ST FLOOR, KOWLOON.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, BY NOVEMBER 13.

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KANSU STREET TO BE RECONSTRUCTED

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KANSU STREET IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE RECONSTRUCTED SOON.

THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT, WHICH FORMS THE FINAL PART OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR STAGE ONE. WORK IS TO START IN LATE OCTOBER AND TAKE NINE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE CONDITION OF KANSU STREET HAS DETERIORATED OVER THE YEARS AND ITS RECONSTRUCTION WILL ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF MOTORISTS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED.

/WORK HAS .....

WORK HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE HIGHWAYS (KOWLOON) DIVISION OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE, ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, HE SAID.

TENDERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL TENDER BOARD, AND PLACED IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TENDER BOX IN THE LIFT LOBBY ON THE LOWER GROUND FLOOR OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (EAST WING), LOWER ALBERT ROAD (AT ITS JUNCTION WITH GARDEN ROAD), HONG KONG, BEFORE NOON ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1984. LATE TENDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM CHIEF ENGINEER, HIGHWAYS (KOWLOON) DIVISION OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, 11, FARM ROAD, FIFTH FLOOR, KOWLOON.

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TAXI STAND

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THE TAXI STAND AT SAN FUNG AVENUE IN SHEUNG SHUI WILL NOT BE IN USE FROM SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 15) UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS.

DURING THE TIME, TAXIS IN THE AREA MAY USE THE FU HING STREET STAND.

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WATER MAINS WORK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO NORTH POINT AND KOWLOON TONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 17) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN NORTH POINT, THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY KING'S ROAD, HEALTHY STREET WEST AND SHU KUK STREET.

IN KOWLOON TONG, THE PREMISES AFFECTED ARE HOUSE NUMBERS 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 47, 49, 77, 79, 81 AND 83 OF BROADCAST DRIVE.

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