



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1988

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GATT URGED TO SHOW POLITICAL WILL  
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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, TOLD THE GATT MINISTERIAL MEETING IN MONTREAL TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THERE SHOULD BE A "DEMONSTRATION OF THE POLITICAL WILL TO DEFEND AND DEVELOP THE LIBERAL MULTILATERAL TRADE REGIME" IN THE CURRENT URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

"IT IS VITAL NOT TO ALLOW EXPEDIENCY TO PREVAIL OVER PRINCIPLES," HE SAID, URGING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WAY IN WHICH SAFEGUARD MEASURES WERE USED AND DISPUTES WERE HANDLED IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE.

REVIEWING PROGRESS IN THE ROUND, MR MACLEOD CONGRATULATED THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ON ITS COURAGEOUS PROPOSAL TO LIFT RESTRICTIONS ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING IN 1991.

HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE OTHERWISE SLOW PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON LIBERALISING TRADE IN THIS SECTOR.

"THE COMMITMENT TO STANDSTILL AND ROLLBACK MUST APPLY TO TEXTILES AND CLOTHING AS TO OTHER SECTORS," MR MACLEOD URGED IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE 90 MINISTERS FROM 105 COUNTRIES ATTENDING THE PLENARY SESSION.

MR MACLEOD APPEALED TO PARTICIPANTS TO MAKE REAL PROGRESS IN THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND IN THE AREA OF TRADE IN SERVICES, AND TO USE THE MONTREAL MEETING TO ACHIEVE A BREAKTHROUGH IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THESE SUBJECTS.

HONG KONG HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN THE URUGUAY ROUND IN SUPPORTING ATTEMPTS TO BRING THESE TWO AREAS UNDER MULTILATERAL DISCIPLINE.

LOOKING AHEAD BEYOND MONTREAL, MR MACLEOD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE ABUSE OF ANTI-DUMPING LEGISLATION BY SOME COUNTRIES AS A MEANS OF PROTECTING DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES.

"THE SITUATION IS BECOMING MANIFESTLY UNFAIR AND IN SOME CASES ABSURD. WE MUST PREVENT THE LEGITIMATE AIM OF COMBATTING DUMPING BEING ABUSED FOR PROTECTIONIST PURPOSES," HE SAID.

HE ALSO URGED ALL DELEGATIONS TO THE MEETING TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY THE PROBLEM OF RULES OF ORIGIN, FOR WHICH NO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS EXIST AND WHICH HAVE BEEN USED FOR PROTECTIONIST PURPOSES CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE GATT.

MR MACLEOD ENDED ON A NOTE OF OPTIMISM, SAYING: "I BELIEVE THAT WE WILL SUCCEED IN REINVIGORATING THE GATT SYSTEM, AND THAT BY OUR ACTIONS HERE WE SHALL SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE THAT THIS IS SO."

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EXTERNAL TRADE PRICE, VOLUME MOVEMENTS IN SEPTEMBER

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 8 PER CENT AND 45 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1988 COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 25 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS ALSO INCREASED BY 26 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES, HAVING DISCOUNTED THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2 PER CENT AND 3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT.

AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE AVAILABLE.

COMPARING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1988 WITH SEPTEMBER 1987, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 11 PER CENT AND 54 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

HENCE, TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY 31 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. IMPORT VOLUME ALSO INCREASED BY 31 PER CENT.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 1 PER CENT AND 3 RESPECTIVELY. PRICES OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP FOR SEPTEMBER 1988 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

AS CAN BE SEEN FROM TABLE 1, THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF MANY COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN SEPTEMBER 1988 COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1987, INCLUDING ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+35 PER CENT); METAL MANUFACTURES (+23 PER CENT); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+41 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (+11 PER CENT); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+10 PER CENT); AND CLOTHING (+3 PER CENT).

/HOWEVER, DECREASES .....

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HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-40 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-16 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-7 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-4 PER CENT).

THE EXPORT VOLUME OF TEXTILE FABRICS; AND TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD REMAINED UNCHANGED.

PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MANY COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN SEPTEMBER 1988 COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1987.

THESE INCLUDED METAL MANUFACTURES (+8 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+6 PER CENT); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+4 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (+3 PER CENT); AND TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+3 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-5 PER CENT); CLOTHING (-2 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-2 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-1 PER CENT); AND TEXTILE FABRICS (-1 PER CENT).

PRICES OF RADIOS OF ALL KINDS; AND METAL ORES AND SCRAP REMAINED UNCHANGED.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR SEPTEMBER 1988 COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 11 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN SEPTEMBER 1988 COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1987.

SIGNIFICANT GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD; AND TEA AND COFFEE.

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR RICE, AND WHEAT AND FLOUR.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 38 PER CENT.

THE COMMODITY ITEMS WITH MORE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES INCLUDED PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; AND RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS; HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES; AND FOOTWEAR.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE BY 32 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1988 COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1987.

/THE MAJOR .....

THE MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS; THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS; AND WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR.

DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR COTTON YARN AND THREAD; AND YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 38 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN SEPTEMBER 1988 COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1987.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 25 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1988 OVER SEPTEMBER 1987.

THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY; INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY OTHER THAN TEXTILE AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY.

HOWEVER, A DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS REGISTERED FOR TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT.

COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1988 WITH SEPTEMBER 1987, IMPORT PRICES OF CAPITAL GOODS AND FOODSTUFFS BOTH ROSE BY 5 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE OF CONSUMER GOODS AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES BOTH INCREASED BY 4 PER CENT. HOWEVER, PRICES OF IMPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 9 PER CENT.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR SEPTEMBER 1988 COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN SEPTEMBER 1988 WHEN COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1987, WITH THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE RANGING FROM 34 PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS TO 119 PER CENT FOR FUELS.

PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS INCREASED BY 6 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1988 WHEN COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1987. RE-EXPORT PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS; AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES BOTH ROSE BY 4 PER CENT. THOSE OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 1 PER CENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS DROPPED BY 16 PER CENT.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE SEPTEMBER 1988 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AROUND DECEMBER 12 AT \$2.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, HONG KONG (TEL. 5-8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. 5-8234918).

TABLE 1: INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1988 WITH SEPTEMBER 1987			COMPARING JAN-SEP 1988 WITH JAN-SEP 1987		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	1	-2	3	*	2	-2
TEXTILE FABRICS	-1	-1	*	-2	2	-4
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	-1	-1	*	-4	2	-5
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-1	3	-4	*	5	-4
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-40	*	-40	-32	2	-33
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	28	-5	35	37	-2	40
FOOTWEAR	14	3	11	4	4	*
METAL MANUFACTURES	33	8	23	30	6	23
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	10	*	10	21	4	16
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	19	4	14	24	3	20
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-9	-2	-7	-8	1	-9
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-11	6	-16	1	2	-2
ALL COMMODITIES	12	1	11	11	2	8

## NOTES FOR TABLES 1 TO 3:

\* INSIGNIFICANT, I.E. LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT

PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE CALCULATED FROM TRADE INDEXES WITH DECIMAL PLACES. THEY MAY DIFFER FROM THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES COMPUTED DIRECTLY FROM THE ROUNDED FIGURES IN THE PUBLICATION "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS".

/TABLE 2: .....

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TABLE 2: INCREASES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1988 WITH SEPTEMBER 1987			COMPARING JAN-SEP 1988 WITH JAN-SEP 1987		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	16	5	11	21	4	16
CONSUMER GOODS	43	4	38	35	3	31
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	38	4	32	30	5	24
FUELS	25	-9	38	7	-2	9
CAPITAL GOODS	31	5	25	36	6	28
ALL COMMODITIES	36	4	31	31	4	26

TABLE 3: INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1988 WITH SEPTEMBER 1987			COMPARING JAN-SEP 1988 WITH JAN-SEP 1987		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	39	4	34	44	2	42
CONSUMER GOODS	58	1	56	48	2	45
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	59	4	53	50	5	43
FUELS	84	-16	119	35	-8	46
CAPITAL GOODS	67	6	57	54	4	48
ALL COMMODITIES	59	3	54	50	3	45

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GENERAL HEALTH LEVEL IN SAN YICK SATISFACTORY

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HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE SAN YICK REFUGEE CENTRE ARE NOT AS BAD AS THEY HAVE BEEN MADE OUT TO BE, A WORKING GROUP FOR THE REFUGEE CENTRES IN TUEN MUN WAS TOLD TODAY (TUESDAY).

"IN FACT, THE GENERAL HEALTH LEVEL IS CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY GIVEN THE CONDITIONS IN THE CENTRE AND THERE IS CERTAINLY NO CAUSE FOR ALARM," SAID DR K.H. PANG OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

"MEDICAL SERVICES ARE ADEQUATE IN THE CENTRE AND THEY ARE FREELY ACCESSIBLE ON A 24-HOUR BASIS," HE SAID.

DR PANG SAID THIS AT A MEETING IN WHICH THE WORKING GROUP DISCUSSED AT LENGTH A REPORT PRODUCED BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES ON THE HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE REFUGEES IN THE CENTRE.

APART FROM UNHCR OFFICIALS, THE MEETING, CHAIRED BY THE REFUGEE CO ORDINATOR, MR MIKE HANSON, WAS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD AND OFFICIALS FROM THE SECURITY BRANCH, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

MR HANSON SAID AFTER THE MEETING: "ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION, WE UNDERSTAND AND SHARE THE CONCERNS OF THE UNHCR IN THE MATTER.

"WE HAVE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED AND ANALYSED THE VARIOUS POINTS IN THE REPORT AND EXPLORED EACH OTHER'S POSITION.

"WE FEEL THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO IMMEDIATELY OPEN UP THE SAN YICK CENTRE AS SUGGESTED, AND THAT THE LIBERALISATION PROGRAMME FOR THE REFUGEES SHOULD CONTINUE ON A GRADUAL AND STEADY BASIS.

"AFTER ALL, THE REFUGEES THEMSELVES NEED TIME AND ORIENTATION TO ADAPT TO THE WAY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG.

"HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE IS NO ROOM FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS AND WE ARE LOOKING AT OTHER POSSIBLE OPTIONS OF MORE RELAXATION PROGRAMMES."

AT TODAY'S MEETING, DR PANG TOLD THE WORKING GROUP THAT APART FROM HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, HEALTH STAFF ALSO PROVIDED A HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SCHEME AT THE CENTRE TO HELP DETECT THE HEALTH STATUS OF THE REFUGEES.

"THERE IS ALSO A 100 PER CENT COVER OF IMMUNISATION FOR ALL THE REFUGEE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 14," HE SAID.

/ "CLINICAL FACILITIES .....

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"CLINICAL FACILITIES ARE ADEQUATE AND NO ONE IS TURNED AWAY WHO WANTS TO MAKE USE OF THESE FACILITIES."

DR PANG POINTED OUT THAT THE UNHCR SURVEY ON CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM CHICKENPOX WAS DONE DURING THE PEAK OF AN OUTBREAK IN LATE NOVEMBER.

"THE NUMBER OF CASES HAVE SINCE BEEN ON THE DECLINE AND THE SITUATION IS VERY MUCH UNDER CONTROL," HE SAID.

A WORKING GROUP MEMBER, MR POON CHIU-HUNG, SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE BLAMED FOR OVERCROWDING CONDITIONS IN SAN YICK.

"I CAN RECALL THAT SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF REFUGEES IN THE CENTRE HAVE REFUSED TO MOVE OUT OF SAN YICK TO THE TEMPORARY CENTRE IN PILLAR POINT.

"I HAVE ALSO NOTED THAT IMPROVEMENTS HAVE CONTINUED TO BE MADE IN THE CENTRE FOR THE BENEFITS OF THE REFUGEES UNDER THE ON-GOING LIBERALISATION PROGRAMME."

MEANWHILE, OFFICIALS FROM THE SECURITY BRANCH WILL SHORTLY HAVE A MEETING WITH HALL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SAN YICK CENTRE TO WORK OUT SELF-HELP PROGRAMMES WITH A VIEW TO FURTHER IMPROVING THE CLEANLINESS AND HYGIENIC CONDITIONS THERE.

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#### BUILDING A PROSPEROUS, CARING COMMUNITY

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THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, TODAY (TUESDAY) ENCOURAGED HONG KONG STUDENTS TO CULTIVATE THE HUMAN QUALITIES OF INDEPENDENCE AND INTERDEPENDENCE WHICH WERE ESSENTIAL FOR THE BUILDING OF A PROSPEROUS AND CARING COMMUNITY.

ADDRESSING THE ANNUAL SPEECH DAY OF THE HONG KONG CHINESE WOMEN'S CLUB COLLEGE, MRS CHAN SAID THAT A HEALTHY COMMUNITY RELIED ON ITS MEMBERS TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES RATHER THAN RELYING ON STATE HELP.

"BUT INDEPENDENCE IS NOT SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN PLUCK OUT OF THIN AIR. IT IS VERY MUCH BORN OUT OF ONE'S SENSE OF SELF WORTH AND HOW WELL ONE HAS LEARNT THE SKILLS OF DAILY LIVING.

"BUILDING UP ONE'S SELF-ESTEEM IS NOT AN EASY TASK PARTICULARLY FOR SOMEONE WITH A HANDICAP BUT WE MUST BELIEVE IN OUR OWN ABILITIES AND MUST KEEP OUR GOALS IN LIFE FIRMLY IN SIGHT," SHE TOLD THE STUDENTS.

/WHILE STRESSING .....

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WHILE STRESSING THE VALUE OF INDEPENDENCE, SHE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERACTION WITH FELLOW MEN IN THE COMMUNITY.

"EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE AROUND YOU INCLUDES THE WILLINGNESS TO HELP AND TO ALLOW OTHERS TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES AND YOUR FEELINGS WHETHER THEY ARE OF PRIDE AND ACCOMPLISHMENT OR FEAR AND PERSONAL INADEQUACY," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN NOTED THAT SHARING EXPERIENCES WOULD LESSEN PAIN AND ANXIETY AND WOULD INCREASE CONFIDENCE AS ONE BECAME MUCH MORE AWARE OF WHERE ONE WAS SIMILAR TO AND DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS.

SHE CALLED UPON STUDENTS TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGES THAT LIFE WOULD BRING AND MAKE ROOM IN THEIR LIVES FOR OTHER CONCERNS.

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#### CALL TO HELP DISABLED INTEGRATE IN SOCIETY

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EMPLOYMENT IS AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF INTEGRATING THE DISABLED INTO THE COMMUNITY, AN EXPERT IN REHABILITATION, DR HARRY FANG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

ADDRESSING THE OPENING OF THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, DR FANG SAID NO ONE WOULD DISPUTE THIS FACT "BECAUSE OF THE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION, FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE AND SELF RESPECT IT ENTAILS".

"MOST OF US HERE, I AM SURE, WOULD AGREE THAT SELECTIVE PLACEMENT IS A VITAL, AND FINAL, STAGE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION," HE SAID.

DR FANG EXPLAINED THAT SELECTIVE PLACEMENT AIMED AT HELPING DISABLED PERSONS TO TAKE UP OPEN EMPLOYMENT SO AS TO MAKE THE BEST POSSIBLE USE OF THEIR RESIDUAL ABILITIES, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE.

"I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT THANKS TO THE HARD WORK OF THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION, THERE HAS BEEN A GRADUAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE DISABLED BY EMPLOYERS AS WELL AS A STEADY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS OF DISABLED PERSONS INTO OPEN EMPLOYMENT," HE ADDED.

/APART FROM .....

APART FROM ACTUAL PLACEMENT WORK, DR FANG NOTED, THE DIVISION ALSO ATTACHED MUCH IMPORTANCE TO A SYSTEMATIC PROGRAMME OF PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES WHICH WERE AIMED AT URGING EMPLOYERS TO GIVE THE DISABLED A FAIR CHANCE AND TO REMOVE POSSIBLE MISCONCEPTIONS THEY MIGHT HAVE ABOUT THE WORKING ABILITY OF DISABLED PERSONS.

THREE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES WERE PARTICULARLY WORTH MENTIONING:

- \* FIRST, STAFF OF THE DIVISION PAID REGULAR VISITS TO VARIOUS ESTABLISHMENTS TO EXPLAIN TO EMPLOYERS THAT DISABLED PERSONS WERE EQUALLY COMPETENT AS THE ABLE-BODIED IN PERFORMING A WIDE RANGE OF JOBS.
- \* SECONDLY, PRESENTATIONS OF SOUVENIRS WERE HELD ANNUALLY TO GIVE RECOGNITION TO EMPLOYERS WHO HAD TAKEN ON THE LARGEST NUMBER OF DISABLED PERSONS OR HAD MADE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR EMPLOYMENT.
- \* THIRDLY, ANNUAL EXHIBITIONS WERE ORGANISED TO PROMOTE THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DISABLED.

EARLIER, IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, SAID THE EXHIBITION INCORPORATED THREE ASPECTS: THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT, SPECIAL TECHNICAL AIDS WHICH ENHANCED THE EMPLOYABILITY OF THE DISABLED, AND THE BENEFITS OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR THE DISABLED.

ITS OBJECTIVE WAS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE WORKING ABILITIES OF DISABLED PERSONS AND TO URGE EMPLOYERS TO ABSORB THEM INTO THE WORKFORCE BY PROVIDING THEM WITH MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

"EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE HAD THE EXPERIENCE OF EMPLOYING DISABLED PERSONS WILL AGREE WITH ME, I AM SURE, THAT THE DISABLED ARE DILIGENT, LOYAL AND STABLE WORKERS," MR HAMMOND SAID.

"AT A TIME WHEN HONG KONG IS FACING A LABOUR SHORTAGE, MAY I CALL UPON EMPLOYERS NOT TO OVERLOOK THIS VALUABLE BUT LARGE UNTAPPED SOURCE OF LABOUR AND URGE THEM TO RESPOND TO OUR MESSAGE 'TAP HUMAN RESOURCES, EMPLOY THE DISABLED'."

THE EXHIBITION, WHICH IS BEING HELD AT THE NEW WORLD PLAZA IN TSIM SHA TSUI, IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BETWEEN 10 AM AND 6.30 PM DAILY UNTIL DECEMBER 12.

VISITORS CAN SEE SOME OF THE SPECIAL TECHNICAL AIDS ON DISPLAY, THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO DISABLED PERSONS AND THE VARIETY OF JOBS TAKEN UP BY THEM IN VARIOUS SECTORS.

THERE ARE ALSO LIVE WORK DEMONSTRATIONS BY DISABLED TRAINEES, SIMULATED JOB-MATCHING BY COMPUTER AND A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER GAME BY ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

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INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES REVISED

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A GOVERNMENT GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED YESTERDAY (MONDAY) CONTAINS A LEGAL NOTICE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS AUTHORISED AN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES.

AS FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), THE NEW ANNUAL RATE OF INTEREST WILL BE 6.84 PER CENT (TAX FREE) AS AGAINST THE CURRENT RATE OF 6.36 PER CENT (TAX FREE).

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE \$0.57 PER MONTH PER \$100. INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETE MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX.

INTEREST IS ONLY CREDITED WHEN CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO PAY TAX AND NO INTEREST IS DUE WHERE THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS REPAID BY A CHEQUE.

THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY TO ALL CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER TOMORROW.

CERTIFICATES WHICH WERE ISSUED BEFORE TOMORROW WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 4.32 PER CENT | PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 24, 1987 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 14, 1987;     |
| 5.28 PER CENT | PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 14, 1987 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 28, 1987;  |
| 4.32 PER CENT | PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 28, 1987 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 30, 1987;  |
| 3.24 PER CENT | PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 30, 1987 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 2, 1987;  |
| 3.00 PER CENT | PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 2, 1987 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 9, 1987;  |
| 2.04 PER CENT | PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 9, 1987 AND BEFORE FEBRUARY 20, 1988; |
| 2.76 PER CENT | PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 20, 1988 AND BEFORE APRIL 13, 1988;   |
| 3.36 PER CENT | PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER APRIL 13, 1988 AND BEFORE MAY 11, 1988;        |

/4.32 PER CENT .....

- 4.32 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 11, 1988 AND BEFORE JUNE 16, 1988;
- 4.8 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 16, 1988 AND BEFORE JUNE 29, 1988;
- 5.28 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 29, 1988 AND BEFORE JULY 27, 1988;
- 5.76 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 27, 1988 AND BEFORE AUGUST 17, 1988; AND
- 6.36 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 17, 1988 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 7, 1988;

BUT ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT INTEREST CEASES TO ACCRUE AFTER 36 COMPLETE MONTHS WITHOUT SURRENDER FOR PAYMENT OF TAX.

EXAMPLE: \$1,000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED ON DECEMBER 9, 1988, JANUARY 9, 1989 AND FEBRUARY 9, 1989 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDERED IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON MARCH 8, 1989 WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

ON \$1,000, DECEMBER 9, 1988 TO MARCH 8, 1989	
3 COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$5.70 PER MONTH	= \$17.10
ON \$1,000, JANUARY 9, 1989 TO MARCH 8, 1989	
2 COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$5.70 PER MONTH	= \$11.40
ON \$1,000, FEBRUARY 9, 1989 TO MARCH 8, 1989	
1 COMPLETE MONTH AT \$5.70 PER MONTH	= \$ 5.70
	\$34.20
	=====

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13 QUESTIONS, TWO BILLS ON LEGCO AGENDA  
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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK 13 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER TWO BILLS IN TOMORROW'S (WEDNESDAY) COUNCIL MEETING.

THE BILLS ARE DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING. THEY ARE THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1988 AND THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

IN ADDITION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER WILL MOVE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (CARTRIDGE-OPERATED FIXING TOOLS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1988.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, TRIBUTE WILL BE PAID TO SIR DAVID TRENCH, GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG FROM 1964 TO 1971, WHO DIED IN ENGLAND AT THE WEEKEND.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1988

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STUDY ON USE OF UNDERGROUND SPACE

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A CONSULTANCY CONTRACT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF VARIOUS SCHEMES TO MAKE USE OF UNDERGROUND CAVERNS WAS AWARDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE \$6.5 MILLION CONSULTANCY WILL COVER THE SECOND HALF OF THE TWO-STAGE STUDY OF THE POTENTIAL USE OF UNDERGROUND SPACE (SPUN).

STAGE I, ALREADY CARRIED OUT IN-HOUSE BY GOVERNMENT, HAS IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING SIX AREAS FOR STUDY:

- (1) BULK STORAGE OF LIQUIDS AND SOLID COMMODITIES DIRECTLY RELATED TO PORT ACTIVITIES,
- (2) STORAGE OF GENERAL GOODS ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES,
- (3) CONTAINER TRADE BACK-UP FACILITIES,
- (4) MAJOR COMMUNITY AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES,
- (5) HAZARDOUS GOODS STORAGE,
- (6) INSTALLATIONS FOR WASTE TREATMENT, DISPOSAL AND TRANSFER, AND SEWAGE TREATMENT.

STAGE II, WHICH WILL TAKE THE CONSULTANTS EIGHT MONTHS TO COMPLETE, WILL STUDY THE SIX AREAS IN RELATION TO ENGINEERING, TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENTAL, PLANNING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS.

THE CONSULTANTS WILL ALSO REVIEW RELEVANT LEGISLATION WHICH MAY APPLY TO ROCK CAVERNS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY LEGISLATION OR LAND POLICY DECISIONS WHICH MIGHT BE REQUIRED.

THE GOVERNMENT TOWN PLANNER, DR TED PRYOR, SAID THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY WILL BE AVAILABLE WHEN THE PREFERRED OPTIONS OF METROPLAN AND PADS - PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - ARE BEING CONSIDERED.

"BY EXAMINING DEVELOPMENTS IN ROCK CAVERN USAGE ELSEWHERE, AND BY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE CONSULTANTS WILL ASSESS THE DEMAND FOR THE VARIOUS TYPES OF USE IN THE VARIOUS LOCATIONS," ADDED DR PRYOR, WHO IS ALSO THE CHIEF ARCHITECT FOR METROPLAN AND PADS.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1988

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FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION PACKAGE  
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WORK ON THE PRODUCTION OF A COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION PACKAGE WILL START SOON FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PROJECT TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, MR FRED TROMP, AND MR STUART WILKINSON OF KSW MEDIA PRODUCTIONS LIMITED.

THE PROJECT, WHICH WILL COST ABOUT \$5 MILLION, IS FUNDED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT'S TECHNICAL SECRETARY, DR MALCOLM BROOM SAID THAT IN RECENT YEARS A MUCH GREATER INTEREST IN AND DEMAND FOR INFORMATION ON, ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS HAD BEEN DEVELOPED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS HAD BEEN MADE TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULA, IT HAD BECOME CLEAR THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL RELATING SPECIFICALLY TO THE SITUATION IN HONG KONG, WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

THE DEPARTMENT PROPOSED THAT A PROJECT, TO BE CONDUCTED BY A CONSULTANT, SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT TO DEVELOP AND PRODUCE AN AUDIO-VISUAL PACKAGE ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AS IT RELATES SPECIFICALLY TO HONG KONG.

RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, THE JOCKEY CLUB READILY AGREED TO FUND THE PROJECT.

THE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION PACKAGE WILL COVER FIVE SUBJECT AREAS - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN HONG KONG (IN ITS BROADEST CONTEXT); WATER POLLUTION AND SEWAGE TREATMENT; AIR POLLUTION; NOISE POLLUTION; AND WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THE PROVISION OF WASTE DISPOSAL AND HANDLING FACILITIES.

A TOTAL OF 600 AUDIO-VISUAL PACKAGES WILL BE PRODUCED, WHICH WILL THEN BE DISTRIBUTED TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

EACH WILL CONTAIN TWO TWO-HOUR VIDEO TAPES, ONE WITH THE ENGLISH VERSION OF FILMS OF THE FIVE SUBJECT AREAS, AND THE OTHER IS THE CANTONESE VERSION.

/THE MATERIALS .....

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THE MATERIALS WILL BE PRESENTED IN AN INNOVATIVE, ATTRACTIVE, EXCITING AND STIMULATING WAY, AND THE VIDEO WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A BILINGUAL TEACHER'S MANUAL, BILINGUAL WORK CARDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, AND A WALL POSTER.

A TOTAL OF 20 SLIDE PACKAGES ACCOMPANIED BY BILINGUAL SCRIPTS WILL ALSO BE PRODUCED, AS A MEANS OF PROVIDING MORE DETAILED INFORMATION IN EACH OF THE FIVE SUBJECT AREAS.

THE SCRIPTS ARE DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF DIFFERENT TARGET GROUPS. ONE SCRIPT WILL BE MORE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL FOR USE IN EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS, THE OTHER WILL BE FOR LAYMEN AND INTEREST GROUPS OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

BOTH THE AUDIO-VISUAL AND SLIDE PACKAGES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR LOAN BY BONA FIDE COMMUNITY GROUPS.

THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE 14 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) APPROVED THE PAYMENT OF \$54,224 FROM THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (TAVA) FUND TO 20 VICTIMS OF A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT IN SHA TIN LAST MONTH AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

THREE ELDERLY PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND 45 OTHERS INJURED IN THE ACCIDENT WHICH INVOLVED A TOURIST BUS ALONG THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD ON NOVEMBER 20.

THE TAVA SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY PROCESSING THE APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM 21 VICTIMS. THREE OTHERS WERE NOT ELIGIBLE WHILE THE REMAINING FOUR HAD WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS.

THE TAVA SCHEME PROVIDES QUICK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDENTS WITHOUT TAKING REGARD OF THE MEANS OF A FAMILY OR THE ELEMENT OF FAULT IN THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT.

ENQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S TAVA SECTION ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF VICTORIA CENTRE, 15 WATSON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY OR BY CALLING 5-702342.

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SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO DISABLED STUDENTS

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TEN OUTSTANDING DISABLED SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE THE SHELL/JAYCEES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE DISABLED AT A CEREMONY AT SHELL HOUSE, CENTRAL, ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 9).

THE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME WAS SET UP IN 1981 TO COINCIDE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS.

UNDER THE SCHEME, 10 HANDICAPPED STUDENTS, WHO HAVE ATTAINED OVERALL GOOD ACADEMIC RESULTS AND CONDUCT, AND DEMONSTRATED ENTHUSIASM IN PARTICIPATING IN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES ARE CHOSEN EACH YEAR FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SHELL HONG KONG LIMITED, MR T.P. BRENNAND, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY AND PRESENT A TROPHY AND A CASH AWARD OF \$1,000 TO EACH OF THE AWARD RECIPIENTS.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE TENABLE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE EVENT WHICH WILL START AT 3 PM AT 11TH FLOOR, SHELL HOUSE, 24-28 QUEEN'S ROAD, CENTRAL ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 9).

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READING AWARD SCHEME FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS

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TO HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP GOOD READING HABITS, IMPROVE THEIR LANGUAGE SKILLS AND MAKE GOOD USE OF SCHOOL LIBRARY RESOURCES, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL AGAIN ORGANISE A READING AWARD SCHEME FOR SECONDARY 1 AND 3 STUDENTS BETWEEN THIS MONTH (DECEMBER) AND APRIL NEXT YEAR (1989).

THE SCHEME, WHICH IS SPONSORED BY THE TAI PING SHAN LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG, WILL REQUIRE STUDENTS TO READ NO FEWER THAN 10 LIBRARY BOOKS INCLUDING THREE ENGLISH AND THREE CHINESE BOOKS WITHIN FIVE MONTHS AND AT LEAST TO PRESENT AN ESSAY-TYPE REPORT ON ONE OF THE BOOKS READ.

/TO ANNOUNCE .....

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TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE SCHEME, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), MR SO FAI-CHO, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE TAI PING SHAN LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG, MR CHONG WING-CHAM, WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 8) AT THE MANDARIN HOTEL, CENTRAL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WILL START AT 2.45 PM IN THE EAST-WEST ROOM OF MANDARIN HOTEL, 23RD FLOOR, CENTRAL, ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 8).

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SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE BEGINS

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THE ANNUAL SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE CO-ORDINATED BY THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT AND INVOLVING A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND EMERGENCY UNITS, FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, WILL BE HELD FROM TODAY (TUESDAY) UNTIL THURSDAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE EXERCISE WAS TO TRAIN AND FAMILIARISE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER SUPPORTING UNITS IN SEARCH AND RESCUE TECHNIQUES.

"THE ALERTING AND CO-ORDINATING PROCEDURES AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES WILL ALSO BE TESTED AT THE SAME TIME," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, IT WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOTH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXERCISE AND TO CO-ORDINATE THEIR PROCEDURES," HE CONTINUED.

COMPRISING A SHORT-RANGE AND A LONG-RANGE OPERATION, THE EXERCISE WILL CENTRE ON THE SEARCH AND RESCUE OF SURVIVORS FROM SEA BY VESSELS AND HELICOPTERS.

IN THE SHORT-RANGE EXERCISE THIS AFTERNOON, A SIMULATED AIR CRASH NEAR THE NINEPINS GROUP WILL ACTIVATE A FULL-SCALE SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION.

/UNDER THE .....

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UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRE AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITS OF THE POLICE, THE U.S. AIR FORCE, THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, THE ROYAL NAVY, THE ROYAL AUXILIARY AIR FORCE AND THE JAPANESE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY WILL BE DESPATCHED TO THE SCENE TO "RESCUE" PASSENGERS AND CREWS FROM THE SIMULATED DITCHED AIRCRAFT.

THE LONG-RANGE EXERCISE WILL BE CARRIED OUT TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) SIMULATING AN AIRCRAFT IN DISTRESS ABOUT 100 MILES SOUTH OF HONG KONG.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, THE ROYAL NAVY, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AND THE JAPANESE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY WILL BE MOBILISED TO SEARCH AND LOCATE THE SURFACE TARGET IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

TAKING PART IN THIS YEAR'S SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE ARE THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE; THE ROYAL NAVY; THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE; THE ROYAL AIR FORCE; THE CIVIL AID SERVICES; THE MARINE DEPARTMENT; THE U.S. AIR FORCE, NAVY AND COAST GUARD; AND THE JAPANESE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY.

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YUEN LONG DB TO DISCUSS ADEQUACY OF POSTAL SERVICES

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 8) TO DISCUSS A PAPER JOINTLY PRESENTED BY TWO MEMBERS ON THE ADEQUACY OF POSTAL SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

QUESTIONS WILL BE RAISED ABOUT THE LEVEL OF SERVICE AND FREQUENCY OF BUS ROUTES RUNNING FROM YUEN LONG TO URBAN AREAS, AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO THE POLLUTION OF THE YUEN LONG NULLAH.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR IN THE DISTRICT AND VARIOUS PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE BOARD ON 13TH FLOOR, YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

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DISTRICT CAMPAIGN TO RAISE FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY CHEST

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PEOPLE IN SHAM SHUI PO WERE URGED TODAY (TUESDAY) TO LEND THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO TWO ACTIVITIES THAT WILL BE HELD THIS WEEK TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE COMMUNITY CHEST.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE COMMUNITY CHEST CAMPAIGN SAID THE DISTRICT HAD RAISED MORE THAN \$600,000 LAST YEAR.

"IT IS HOPED THAT A GREATER AMOUNT CAN BE RAISED THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO SHOW OUR CARE AND CONCERN TO THE NEEDY," HE ADDED.

THE FIRST FUND-RAISING FUNCTION IS A CHARITY DINNER SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY (DECEMBER 9), WITH A LOCAL RESTAURANT DONATING MEALS FOR ABOUT 900 GUESTS.

THE PROCEEDS FROM SALES OF DINNER COUPONS WILL GO TO THE COMMUNITY CHEST.

A COMMUNITY CHEST BAZAAR WILL BE HELD BY THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE AT THE MAPLE STREET PLAYGROUND FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON SUNDAY.

ABOUT 40 STALLS WILL BE SET UP BY VARIOUS LOCAL SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, AND YIN NGAI SOCIETIES.

A NUMBER OF FACTORY OWNERS IN THE DISTRICT HAVE SHOWN THEIR SUPPORT FOR THIS WORTHY CAUSE BY DONATING VARIOUS GOODS FOR SALE AT THE BAZAAR.

THESE INCLUDE HOUSEHOLD AND ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, KITCHEN UTENSILS, SPORTS EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING AND LADIES' ACCESSORIES. ALL THE PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE COMMUNITY CHEST.

TO ADD COLOUR TO THE EVENT, THERE WILL BE LION DANCES AND SINGING PERFORMANCES TO ENTERTAIN VISITORS.

OFFICIATING AT THE BAZAAR WILL BE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST OF HONG KONG, MR DENIS BRAY; SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GREGORY LEUNG; SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR TAI TUNG-NGOK; AND THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN MOW-FAT.

MEANWHILE, THE COMMITTEE IS ALSO WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE COMMUNITY CHEST TO PREPARE FOR A "WALK FOR A MILLION" ON MARCH 5 NEXT YEAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE COMMUNITY CHEST BAZAAR IN SHAM SHUI PO, BEGINNING AT 9 AM AT THE MAPLE STREET PLAYGROUND ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 11). MR BRAY WILL DELIVER A SPEECH AT 10 AM.

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TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS AT AIRPORT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT SEVERAL ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE DESIGNATED ROUND-THE-CLOCK URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 9) IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXTENSION OF THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTED AREAS:

- \* CONCORDE ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH ELECTRA DRIVE ROUNDABOUT AND A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.
- \* THE UNNAMED ROAD LINKING ELECTRA DRIVE ROUNDABOUT AND ARRIVALS ROAD.
- \* ARRIVALS ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH ELECTRA DRIVE AND A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION. IN ADDITION, ALL GOODS VEHICLES WILL BE BANNED FROM ENTERING THIS ROAD SECTION.
- \* THE ROAD LINKING THE EASTBOUND DOWN-RAMP OF DEPARTURES CIRCUIT WITH ARRIVALS ROAD.
- \* AT THE SAME TIME, VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER ELECTRA DRIVE.

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TRAFFIC RE-ROUTEING AND URBAN CLEARWAY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT WANG KEE STREET IN KOWLOON BAY INDUSTRIAL AREA WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 9).

MOTORISTS FROM WANG CHIN STREET WESTBOUND HEADING FOR LAM HING STREET EASTBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED VIA WANG KEE STREET NORTHBOUND.

AT THE SAME TIME, ON PO LANE IN TAI PO WILL BE DESIGNATED A PEAK HOUR (I.E. 7 - 10 AM AND 4 - 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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INTERRUPTIONS TO FRESH WATER SUPPLY

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING INTERRUPTIONS TO FRESH WATER SUPPLY DUE TO WATER WORKS:

- \* THE SUPPLY TO THE AREA BOUNDED BY TAI WO HAU ROAD, SHEUNG KOK STREET AND BLOCKS 1 - 26, KWAI CHUNG ESTATE, WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 7) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.
- \* THE SUPPLY TO THE AREA BOUNDED BY THE SECTION OF JUNCTION ROAD BETWEEN WATERLOO ROAD AND WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD, KAM SHING ROAD, OSBORN BARRACKS, EDE ROAD, EASTBOURNE ROAD, WARWICK ROAD, BEACON HILL ROAD, RHONDDA ROAD, ALNWICK ROAD AND PILGRIMS WAY WILL BE CUT OFF BETWEEN 10 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 8) AND 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.
- \* THE SUPPLY TO PAK WAI, LUK MEI TSUEN, PAK SHA WAN AND KAU SAI SAN TSUEN IN SAI KUNG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 8) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.
- \* THE SUPPLY TO MUI WO, FUNG KONG SHAN, TAI TEI TONG TSUEN AND NGAN WAN ESTATE ON LANTAU WILL BE CUT OFF FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 8).
- \* THE SUPPLY TO THE KOWLOON TONG AREA BOUNDED BY CORNWALL STREET, K.C.R. RAILWAY, EMBANKMENT ROAD, BOUNDARY STREET, GRAMPIAN ROAD, NGA TSIN WAI ROAD, LANCASHIRE ROAD, LA SALLE ROAD, HEREFORD ROAD, RENFREW ROAD, JUNCTION ROAD AND WATERLOO ROAD WILL EXPERIENCE WEAK PRESSURE BETWEEN 10 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 8) AND 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

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