



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1983

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
INSURANCE BILL DEBATE RESUMES TOMORROW	1
EXPANSION OF SCOPE OF SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES PROPOSED	2
QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE FIGURES PUBLISHED	4
LARGER PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES	6
EXHIBITION TO PUBLICISE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS	6
TWO-YEAR COURSE FOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS	7
CAREERS QUIZ WINNERS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS	7
CHINA LIGHT ELECTRICITY FOR CHEUNG CHAU	8
FESTIVAL FOR KWAI CHUNG RESIDENTS	9
FRESH AND SALT WATER MAINS WORK	10

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1983

- 1 -

INSURANCE BILL DEBATE RESUMES TOMORROW
* * * *

THE DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE INSURANCE COMPANIES BILL 1982 WILL BE RESUMED TOMORROW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE BILL IS TO PROTECT POLICYHOLDERS +WHO BECAUSE OF CIRCUMSTANCES CLEARLY CANNOT PROTECT THEMSELVES AND NEED GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION TO ASSIST THEM+.

THE BILL WAS INTRODUCED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES ON MAY 19, 1982. DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED ON THAT OCCASION AND WILL BE FURTHER ADJOURNED AFTER DISCUSSION TOMORROW.

AT TOMORROW'S MEETING, THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (RECRUITING OF SEAMEN) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 WILL BE INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME BEFORE DEBATE IS ADJOURNED. IT WILL BE MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS.

THREE BILLS ARE DUE FOR FINAL READING. THEY ARE THE PUBLIC FINANCE BILL 1982, SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1981-82) BILL 1983, AND THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983.

A NUMBER OF SESSIONAL PAPERS WILL ALSO BE TABLED AT THE MEETING TOMORROW AND WILL INCLUDE THE REPORT AND CERTIFICATE OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1982.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE'S REPORT NO. 5 AND THE 1981-2 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES WILL ALSO BE TABLED.

IN ADDITION, 13 QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

THEY WILL DEAL WITH A WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS, INCLUDING PATENT AND COPYRIGHT, HYGIENE INVOLVING COOKED FOOD STALLS, ASSIMILATION INTO THE COMMUNITY OF RECENT ARRIVALS FROM CHINA, AND THE DELAY IN WORK ON THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL.

OTHER QUESTIONS WILL DEAL WITH NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES, INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION, POLICY REGARDING URBAN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS, RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, STUDENTS' MAINTENANCE GRANTS AND MORAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, THE ROAD SUBSIDENCE ON HENNESSY ROAD, CIVIL DEBTORS AND TRANSPORT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/2

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1983

- 2 -

EXPANSION OF SCOPE OF SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES PROPOSED
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES BY INCLUDING A DEATH GRANT OF \$3 000 TO HELP BEREAVED FAMILIES ADJUST TO NEW CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE GRANT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE EMPLOYER WHERE THE EMPLOYEE DIES AFTER MORE THAN 12 MONTHS CONTINUOUS SERVICE AND FROM GENERAL REVENUE FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE THIS LENGTH OF SERVICE, FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYED, AND FOR THOSE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT BUT ARE LOOKING AFTER DEPENDANTS.

IN A REVIEW OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIFE UNDERWRITERS ASSOCIATION TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR ERIC HO POINTED OUT THAT APART FROM OCCUPATIONAL BENEFITS PROVIDED BY EMPLOYERS, THE WHOLE RANGE OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG ARE NON-CONTRIBUTORY.

HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT LACK OF INSURANCE HABIT IN OUR COMMUNITY WAS A SIGNIFICANT REASON WHY THE GOVERNMENT DOUBTED THE SEMI-VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTORY SICKNESS, INJURY AND DEATH BENEFIT SCHEME WOULD WORK.

A SURVEY WHICH COVERED 560 ESTABLISHMENTS AND INVOLVING INTERVIEWS WITH 2 089 EMPLOYEES IN VARIOUS OCCUPATIONS AND INDUSTRIES INDICATED THAT ONLY 4.2 PER CENT OF EMPLOYEES HAD LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES, 1.5 PER CENT BOUGHT MEDICAL INSURANCE AND 1 PER CENT SICKNESS INSURANCE.

+IN THE LIGHT OF THESE FACTS, ANY PRUDENT GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT A SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEME OF A VOLUNTARY NATURE IS NOT LIKELY TO ATTRACT MUCH HIGHER PERCENTAGES OF PARTICIPANTS, OR A REASONABLE SPREAD OF RISKS,+ HE SAID.

AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE SCHEME, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT EMPLOYEES SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND ACCORDINGLY A BILL IS NOW AT AN ADVANCED STAGE OF DRAFTING WHICH WILL INCREASE THE MAXIMUM SICKNESS BENEFIT FROM THE PRESENT 36 DAYS TO 120 DAYS DEPENDING ON LENGTH OF SERVICE, AND PROVIDE FOR THE DEATH GRANT.

MR HO ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE NO PLANS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND BECAUSE IT WAS NOT PART OF OUR STRATEGY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR SOCIAL SECURITY, AND NOT BECAUSE OF POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES.

IN SINGAPORE, EMPLOYEES AND THEIR EMPLOYERS CONTRIBUTE 22 TO 23 PER CENT OF WAGES TOWARDS THEIR CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND BUT WHEN THEY RETIRED, CONTRIBUTORS WILL HAVE GOT LITTLE BEYOND THE FLAT THEY OCCUPIED. IN HONG KONG, WE ALREADY HAVE A HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND OUR AMBITIOUS PUBLIC HOUSING IS IN FULL STRIDE, HE SAID.

/+I AM

+ I AM CERTAIN THAT OUR WORKERS, TO SAY NOTHING OF OUR EMPLOYERS, JUST DON'T WANT TO SEE A QUARTER OF THEIR EARNINGS LOCKED UP IN THE GOVERNMENT'S COFFERS, WHATEVER OUR ACADEMICS MAY THINK IS GOOD FOR THEM,+ HE SAID.

IN HIS REVIEW OF EXISTING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS, MR HO POINTED OUT THAT AN AVERAGE FOUR-PERSON HOUSEHOLD CAN NOW RECEIVE SOME \$1 800 PER MONTH IN PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, WHICH IS ABOUT THE SAME AS THE AVERAGE INDUSTRIAL WORKER'S WAGE - THOUGH THERE IS AN AVERAGE OF 1.9 WORKERS PER HOUSEHOLD.

WHEN COMPARED WITH THE ORIGINAL RATES IN 1971 THIS SCALE SHOWS AN IMPROVEMENT OF 220 PER CENT, WHILE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 'A' INCREASED BY 188 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD. IT REPRESENTS ROUGHLY A 25 PER CENT INCREASE TO REFLECT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE REAL STANDARD OF LIVING AND REGULAR ADJUSTMENTS TO KEEP AHEAD OF PRICE CHANGES.

IN 1981-82, SOME \$291.29 MILLION WAS DISBURSED AS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND THE AMOUNT IS EXPECTED TO TOTAL \$404 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTS DEPENDENT ON SUCH ASSISTANCE IS UNDER 100 000 BUT IF RECIPIENTS OF OLD AGE AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCES WHO ARE NOT ALSO ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ARE INCLUDED, ABOUT 280 000 RESIDENTS OR 5 PER CENT OF OUR ENTIRE POPULATION ARE BENEFITTING FROM PUBLIC SOCIAL SECURITY.

+AS I STATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST NOVEMBER THIS ITEM OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE CANNOT, AND WILL NOT, BE ARTIFICIALLY RESTRAINED ON ACCOUNT OF ANY FINANCIAL STRINGENCY, MR HO STRESSED.

IN ADDITION TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, THE FOLLOWING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

EMERGENCY RELIEF

- * EMERGENCY RELIEF SERVICE WAS GIVEN TO 11 032 FAMILIES INVOLVING 34 147 PERSONS IN 149 INCIDENTS WHILE PAYMENTS FROM THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND TOTALLED \$8.76 MILLION IN 1981-82.
- * CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION: DURING THE SAME YEAR 956 APPLICATIONS FOR COMPENSATION WERE CONSIDERED AND AWARDS TOTALLED \$2.22 MILLION.
- * TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE. IN 1981-82, THIS SCHEME DEALT WITH 5 586 CASES AND PAYMENTS AMOUNTING TO \$24.05 MILLION WERE MADE.

SPECIAL NEEDS

- * OLD AGE ALLOWANCE: SOME 184 400 SENIOR CITIZENS ARE NOW DRAWING THIS ALLOWANCE AND AN AVERAGE OF 1 248 ELDERLY PEOPLE ARE JOINING THEM EACH MONTH. TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR 1982-83 ARE ESTIMATED AT \$449.52 MILLION.
- * DISABILITY ALLOWANCE: THIS ALLOWANCE IS DRAWN BY SOME 35 300 SEVERELY DISABLED PEOPLE AT PRESENT AND THE NUMBER IS INCREASING AT AN AVERAGE OF 367 A MONTH. SOME \$174.84 MILLION WOULD HAVE BEEN PAID OUT BY THE END OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE FIGURES PUBLISHED

* * * * *

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE AUGUST - OCTOBER 1982 QUARTER WAS FOUR PER CENT, WHICH COMPARES WITH 3.4 PER CENT FOR THE PREVIOUS MAY - JULY QUARTER, AND 3.5 PER CENT FOR THE FEBRUARY - APRIL QUARTER, ALL FIGURES USING THE DEFINITIONS OF THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY, ACCORDING TO FIGURES PUBLISHED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS.

THE INCREASES OF 0.6 PERCENTAGE POINT AND OF 0.5 PERCENTAGE POINT RESPECTIVELY WERE STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT COMPARED WITH THE TWO PREVIOUS QUARTERS.

IN COMMENTING UPON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIED FROM MONTH TO MONTH, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS WITH THE FIGURES FOR EARLIER PERIODS.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE AUGUST - OCTOBER QUARTER WAS 2 405 000, WHICH WAS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE FIGURE OF 2 401 800 FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

STARTING WITH THE AUGUST - OCTOBER QUARTER, UNDEREMPLOYMENT FIGURES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE. THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS EXPLAINED THAT, CONSISTENT WITH THE PRACTICE ADOPTED IN MANY COUNTRIES, 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. IN OTHER WORDS, PEOPLE SUCH AS PART-TIME WORKERS WHO CHOSE TO WORK LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK AND WERE NOT AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK, WERE NOT UNDEREMPLOYED.

BASED ON THIS DEFINITION, THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 1.7 PER CENT OF THE LABOUR FORCE FOR THE QUARTER AUGUST - OCTOBER 1982. THUS, WHILE ABOUT 9.3 PER CENT OF ALL EMPLOYED PERSONS WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK, THIS PERCENTAGE COULD NOT BE TAKEN TO REPRESENT THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE.

THE LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS FOR THE AUGUST - OCTOBER 1982 QUARTER WERE OBTAINED FROM A SAMPLE 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, FROM WHICH PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER IN THE HOUSEHOLD.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS DREW ATTENTION TO THE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS USED IN THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY COMPARED WITH THOSE USED IN THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY.

IN THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY, PERSONS AGED 15 AND OVER WHO WERE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT BUT WERE AVAILABLE FOR WORK AND WERE SEEKING WORK IN THE SEVEN DAYS BEFORE ENUMERATION WERE CLASSIFIED AS UNEMPLOYED.

THOSE CLASSIFIED AS +UNEMPLOYED+ ALSO INCLUDED PEOPLE WHO WERE WAITING TO TAKE UP A NEW JOB ; OR WHO HAD TEMPORARILY BEEN LAID OFF WORK WITHOUT PAY ; OR WHO WERE AVAILABLE FOR WORK, BUT WERE NOT ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR WORK BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS NONE TO BE HAD OR BECAUSE THEY WERE TEMPORARILY SICK.

ACCORDING TO THE DEFINITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT USED IN THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY, THERE WERE 106 700 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN HONG KONG IN THE QUARTER AUGUST - OCTOBER 1982, REPRESENTING 4.2 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LABOUR FORCE. AFTER ADJUSTMENT FOR SEASONAL EFFECTS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 3.8 PER CENT. THEREFORE, IN THE AUGUST - OCTOBER QUARTER, 5.5 PER CENT (I.E. 3.8 PER CENT PLUS 1.7 PER CENT) OF THE LABOUR FORCE WAS UNEMPLOYED OR UNDEREMPLOYED.

THE REPORT FOR THE AUGUST - OCTOBER 1982 QUARTER GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY MAY BE PURCHASED FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING AT \$5 A COPY.

SIMILAR INFORMATION ON THE LABOUR FORCE WILL BE PUBLISHED AT REGULAR THREE-MONTHLY INTERVALS.

- 6 -

LARGER PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES

* * *

LARGER AND MORE COMFORTABLE PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL SHORTLY BE INTRODUCED ON HONG KONG'S ROADS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

AND THE FIRST MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION WAS MADE THIS MORNING AT THE DEPARTMENT'S TO KWA WAN VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE WHEN A FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED 14 SEATER BUS WAS PRESENTED FOR INSPECTION.

UNDER AMENDMENTS RECENTLY MADE TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE, PLB OPERATORS ARE ALLOWED TO ORDER NEW VEHICLES OF LARGER DIMENSIONS AND WEIGHT THAN PREVIOUSLY PERMITTED.

THIS WILL ENABLE EXISTING OLD LIGHT BUSES TO BE REPLACED BY LARGER AND MORE ROBUST VEHICLES, SOME AIR-CONDITIONED AND OFFERING GREATER COMFORT TO PASSENGERS.

BUT THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PASSENGERS THAT CAN BE CARRIED REMAINS AT 14.

ONE TEST WHICH IS PRE-REQUISITE TO THE REGISTRATION OF THIS NEW TYPE OF VEHICLE IS A STABILITY CHECK IN WHICH THE BUS IS TILTED TO 35 DEGREES TO EACH SIDE WITH A SIMULATED FULL LOAD OF 14 PASSENGERS.

THIS MORNING'S EXAMINATION WENT VERY SMOOTHLY, MR MARTYN UTTLEY, SENIOR ENGINEER (VEHICLE EXAMINATION) SAID, ADDING THAT HE EXPECTS MORE OF THESE NEW TYPES OF BUSES TO SHOW UP IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EXHIBITION TO PUBLICISE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

* * *

A WEEK-LONG EXHIBITION ON THE WORK OF THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL BEGIN ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 20) IN WAN CHAI TO PROMOTE THE U.C. ELECTIONS ON MARCH 8.

THE EXHIBITION, TO BE HELD AT THE MINDEN PLAZA IN CAUSEWAY BAY BETWEEN 9 AM AND 7 PM DAILY, WILL FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE SAID THE EXHIBITION WAS AIMED AT EXPLAINING TO RESIDENTS THE COUNCIL'S WORK, ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES AVAILABLE AND FUTURE PLANS FOR THE DISTRICT.

+THE EVENT WILL BE THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO PUBLICISE THE ELECTIONS,+ HE SAID.

+OTHER PROMOTION ACTIVITIES PLANNED IN WAN CHAI WILL INCLUDE SEMINARS, FORUMS, A VARIETY SHOW AND A TELEMATCH.+

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN WAN CHAI IS 46 972.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1983

- 7 -

TWO-YEAR COURSE FOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS
* * * * *

SERVING KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS WHO ARE PROFESSIONALLY UNTRAINED ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR A TWO-YEAR PART-TIME IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSE ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE, WHICH WILL START IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, THESE TEACHERS WILL BE AWARDED THE STATUS OF +QUALIFIED KINDERGARTEN TEACHER+ AND WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S REGISTER OF TEACHERS.

THE COURSE, WHICH WILL BE FREE AND CONDUCTED IN CHINESE, WILL REQUIRE PARTICIPANTS TO ATTEND TWO THREE-HOUR SESSIONS PER WEEK.

THE COURSE WILL INCLUDE PROFESSIONAL, CURRICULUM AND GENERAL STUDIES PRESENTED THROUGH LECTURES, TUTORIALS, VISITS, WORKSHOPS AND SUPERVISION OF PRACTICAL TEACHING.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT LEE GARDENS, 3/F, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG AND GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AT 42 GASCOIGNE ROAD AND ITS ANNEXE AT 9/F, ARGYLE CENTRE, 688 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

APPLICANTS SHOULD BE A FULL-TIME PERMITTED TEACHER IN A REGISTERED KINDERGARTEN AND HAVE A MINIMUM OF TWO YEARS' TEACHING EXPERIENCE AS AT SEPTEMBER 1, 1983, AND HAVE ATTAINED GRADE E OR ABOVE IN AT LEAST TWO SUBJECTS, ONE OF THEM PREFERABLY IN CHINESE, IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION, OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS, IN DUPLICATE, SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE JOINT SELECTION BOARD C/O GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ANNEXE AT ARGYLE CENTRE BEFORE FEBRUARY 28, 1983.

APPLICATIONS FORWARDED BY POST OR APPLICATIONS WHICH ARE INCOMPLETE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

CAREERS QUIZ WINNERS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS
* * * * *

THREE STUDENTS WHO SCORED THE HIGHEST MARKS IN THE FINAL ROUND OF A CAREERS QUIZ ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH ITS CAREERS EXHIBITION HELD LAST NOVEMBER, WERE EACH AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP OF \$2 000.

THEY ARE LAM KIN-MO OF GERTRUDE SIMON LUTHERAN COLLEGE, YOUNG JUSTISA OF MING KEI COLLEGE AND SZETO YUK-WOON OF ST. TERESA SECONDARY SCHOOL.

/THE SCHOLARSHIPS,

THE SCHOLARSHIPS, DONATED BY DAO HENG BANK, WERE PRESENTED BY THE BANK'S DIRECTOR AND BUSINESS ADVISOR, MR FRANK TUNG, AT A CEREMONY HELD IN THE HONG KONG CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE IN HENNESSY CENTRE, CAUSEWAY BAY.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, DR J.W. HAYES, SAID THAT ABOUT 60 000 STUDENTS FROM OVER 100 SECONDARY SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED IN THE QUIZ WHICH WAS AIMED AT REMINDING THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOOSING A SUITABLE CAREER AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO COLLECT USEFUL CAREERS INFORMATION.

+IT IS VERY GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT ON THE WHOLE PARTICIPATING STUDENTS PERFORMED VERY WELL IN THE QUIZ. NO DOUBT THIS IS A SIGN THAT THEY SHOWED INITIATIVE IN COLLECTING CAREERS INFORMATION,+ DR HAYES SAID.

MR TUNG SAID AT THE CEREMONY THAT THE QUIZ WAS THE SECOND YOUTH PROJECT HIS BANK HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH, THE FIRST PROJECT BEING THE CAREERS EXHIBITION HELD BY THE DEPARTMENT IN TSUEN WAN LAST YEAR.

+I HOPE THAT THOSE STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE QUIZ WILL MAKE FULL USE OF THE CAREERS INFORMATION THEY HAD GAINED TO CHOOSE AN IDEAL CAREER,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHINA LIGHT ELECTRICITY FOR CHEUNG CHAU
* * * *

IN THE INTERESTS OF CHEUNG CHAU RESIDENTS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS AUTHORISED CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY TO SUPPLY THE ISLAND WITH ELECTRICITY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THIS WOULD ENABLE THE RESIDENTS WHEN THEY BECOME CONSUMERS OF CHINA LIGHT, TO PAY THE SAME TARIFFS WHICH APPLIED ELSEWHERE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND IN KOWLOON. AT PRESENT RESIDENTS OF CHEUNG CHAU PAY ABOUT 60 PER CENT MORE FOR ELECTRICITY THAN CONSUMERS ELSEWHERE IN HONG KONG.

THE ELECTRICITY WILL BE SUPPLIED BY SUBMARINE CABLES FROM PUI O ON LANTAU.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMPANY WAS NOW PURSUING WITH THE GOVERNMENT APPLICATIONS FOR A HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY PRIOR TO THE INSTALLATION OF THE CABLES AND FOR THE GRANTING OF SITES FOR THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1983

- 9 -

FESTIVAL FOR KWAI CHUNG RESIDENTS
* * * *

THE ANNUAL KWAI CHUNG FESTIVAL FEATURING A SERIES OF ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES WILL BEGIN ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FRED TING, ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE SAID THAT LIKE THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS, THE DISTRICT BOARD WOULD FUND MOST OF THE EXPENSES FOR THE WEEK-LONG FESTIVAL.

+ABOUT \$250 000 WILL BE SPENT THIS YEAR, OF WHICH \$160 000 WILL COME FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE REST FROM LOCAL DONATIONS.+

MR TING STRESSED THAT THE BOARD HAD BEEN PAYING EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO ORGANISING ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS IMPROVING THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.

+PROBLEMS SUCH AS ILLEGAL PARKING, TRAFFIC CONGESTION, ABANDONED VEHICLES, FIRE PREVENTION, ILLEGAL ROOFTOP EXTENSIONS, AND CRIME HAD BEEN BROUGHT UP AT RECENT MEETINGS OF THE BOARD, ITS COMMITTEES AND AREA COMMITTEES,+ HE SAID.

+VIEWS OF THE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SOUGHT SO THAT NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE.+

MR TING WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE FESTIVAL WOULD HELP PROMOTE COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND ENABLE RESIDENTS TO GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMMUNITY THEY LIVE OR WORK IN.

ABOUT 30 ITEMS OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING VARIETY SHOWS, CANTONESE OPERAS AND GAME COMPETITIONS WILL BE STAGED IN THE SIX KWAI CHUNG AREAS.

A TOUR TO THE SPACE MUSEUM, A PICNIC TO LAU FAU SHAN AND A WALK ROUND KWAI SHING ESTATE HAVE ALSO BEEN ORGANISED.

AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 2 PM ON JANUARY 29 AT THE KWAI CHUNG SPORTSGROUND, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A THREE-HOUR PROGRAMME OF LION AND DRAGON DANCES, INSTRUMENT PLAYING BY STUDENTS OF FOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS, A MASS DISPLAY AND CHIU CHOW MUSICAL PERFORMANCE.

ADMISSION TO ALL EVENTS IS FREE AND BROCHURES FOR THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT'S SIX PUBLIC ENQUIRIES COUNTERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1983

- 10 -

FRESH AND SALT WATER MAINS WORK
* * * *

FRESH AND SALT WATER MAINS WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY IN TWO AREAS ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN KOWLOON.

AS A RESULT, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE CUT FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON FRIDAY.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY ELECTRIC ROAD, WATSON ROAD, HING FAT STREET AND THE SEAFRONT AREA BETWEEN WATSON ROAD AND HING FAT STREET. OTHER AREAS AFFECTED WILL INCLUDE 160-251 ELECTRIC ROAD, MERLIN STREET AND THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

IN EAST KOWLOON, SALT WATER SUPPLY WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY.

THE AREAS TO BE AFFECTED WILL BE HUNG HOM, TO KWA WAN, MA TAU WAI, MA TAU KOK, KAI TAK, KOWLOON CITY INCLUDING KOWLOON HOSPITAL, WONG TAI SIN, KOWLOON TONG, WANG TAU HOM, LOK FU ESTATE, TUNG TAU ESTATE, TSZ WAN SHAN ESTATE AND FU SHAN ESTATE.

- - - - 0 - - - -