DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 1985

CONTENTS PAGE NO.

1983 BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION, REAL ESTATE SURVEY RESULTS OUT .. 1

CHILDREN EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTION STRESSED 3

SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS SOUGHT 3

RESIDENTS URGED TO REGISTER AS VOTERS 4

QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED 5

JOBS FOUND FOR 600 REDUNDANT TEACHERS 7

WELFARE ALLOWANCE PAYMENT ADVANCED 8

LIFEBUOYS AT TSIM SHA TSUI PROMENADE FOR EMERGENCY 8

SEARCH FOR ELECTORS CONTINUES 9

INTRODUCTION TO LAW FOR JOURNALISTS 10

WATER CUTS IN TWO AREAS 10

RESTRICTED ZONE SET UP 11

1983 BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION, REAL ESTATE SURVEY RESULTS OUT

* * * * *

THERE WERE 5 870 CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS OPERATING IN 1983 ENGAGING A TOTAL OF 96 639 PERSONS, ACCORDING TO SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TOTAL GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY THESE ESTABLISHMENTS AMOUNTED TO $38 853 MILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF TWO PER CENT OVER 1982.

THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE BY THESE ESTABLISHMENTS WAS $36 643 MILLION WHICH INCLUDED $9 406 MILLION ON COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES AND PAYMENTS TO LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS; $11 304 MILLION ON CONSUMPTION OF MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND INDUSTRIAL SERVICES; $13 752 MILLION ON SUB-CONTRACT WORK RENDERED BY FEE SUB-CONTRACTORS; AND $2 181 MILLION ON MISCELLANEOUS OPERATING EXPENSES.

TOTAL VALUE ADDED WAS $12 295 MILLION WHICH WAS SIX PER CENT LOWER THAN IN 1982.

THE SURVEY OF THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS WAS CONDUCTED FROM APRIL 1984 TO EARLY 1985, COVERING THEIR OPERATION IN 1983.

THE SURVEY COVERED THE FOLLOWING TRADES:

* BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION;

* REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT;

* ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PROJECT ENGINEERING; AND

* REAL ESTATE LEASING, BROKERAGE AND MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT.

ANALYSED BY TRADE ACTIVITY, IT IS NOTED THAT 2 238 OR 38 PER CENT OF CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS WERE ENGAGED IN RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ERECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES. THEY WERE MOSTLY SMALL CONCERNS ACCOUNTING FOR $2 409 MILLION OR ONLY SIX PER CENT OF TOTAL CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE 886 GENERAL TRADE CONTRACTORS PERFORMING AT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES ACCOUNTED FOR 15 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS BUT CONTRIBUTED $28 124 MILLION OR 72 PER CENT OF TOTAL CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED.

THE REST OF THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR CONSISTED OF MOSTLY SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS, SUCH AS THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL FITTING TRADE CONTRACTORS. HOWEVER, THE SURVEY DID NOT COVER LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS WHO MAINLY SUPPLIED LABOUR TO WORK ON A JOB-TO-JOB BASIS.

/THE OUTPUT .....

THE OUTPUT OF THESE SUB-CONTRACTORS WAS REPORTED INDIRECTLY BY THE OTHER CONTRACTORS COMMISSIONING THEIR SERVICES.

BESIDES ESTABLISHMENT STATISTICS, THE SURVEY ALSO COLLECTED DATA ABOUT CONSTRUCTION SITES. ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, 2 045 SITE CONTRACTS WERE CARRIED OUT IN 1983 OF WHICH 699 CONTRACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS AND 1 346 RELATED TO PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION.

TOTAL GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CONTRACTS WERE $21 955 MILLION WHICH WAS TWO PER CENT LOWER THAN IN 1982.

REGARDING THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT SECTOR, THE SURVEY SHOWED THAT THERE WERE 858 ACTIVE PRIVATE REAL ESTATE PROJECTS IN 1983. THE TOTAL VALUE ACCRUED TO THESE PROJECTS WAS $16 264 MILLION, WITH A DECREASE OF 42 PER CENT OVER 1982.

THE PROJECT OUTLAYS WERE $12 185 MILLION WHICH INCLUDED PAYMENTS TO CONTRACTORS, ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY FEES, INTEREST PAYMENTS AND OTHER PROJECT EXPENSES.

REGARDING ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PROJECT ENGINEERING SERVICES, THE SURVEY INDICATED THAT THERE WERE 496 SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS OPERATING IN 1983 ENGAGING A TOTAL OF 9 086 PERSONS. THEIR TOTAL BUSINESS RECEIPTS WERE $1 905 MILLION, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF EIGHT PER CENT OVER 1982.

THEIR TOTAL EXPENDITURES WERE $1 550 MILLION WHICH INCLUDED $916 MILLION ON COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES. TOTAL VALUE ADDED WAS $1 266 MILLION WHICH DECREASED BY SEVEN PER CENT OVER 1982.

REGARDING REAL ESTATE LEASING, BROKERAGE AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES, 2 062 ESTABLISHMENTS WERE ENGAGED IN THESE TRADES IN 1983, AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS DIRECTLY ENGAGED WAS 24 978. THE SURVEY DID NOT COVER ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA CARRIED OUT BY SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS OR PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS.

TOTAL SERVICE AND RENTAL INCOME OF THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS COVERED IN THE SURVEY CAME TO $7 083 MILLION. OTHER BUSINESS RECEIPTS, WHICH WERE MAINLY INTEREST INCOME, AMOUNTED TO $1 679 MILLION. TOTAL EXPENDITURES WERE $4 961 MILLION. TOTAL VALUE ADDED WAS $6 009 MILLION WHICH WAS 18 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN 1982.

SUMMARY STATISTICS FROM THE 1983 SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THE JULY 1985 ISSUE OF HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS.

A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS OBTAINED FROM THE 1983 SURVEY WILL BE GIVEN IN ITS SURVEY REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED IN A FEW WEEKS TIME.

IN THE MEANTIME, ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE 3-7213846.

----0----

/3 .....

CHILDREN EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTION STRESSED

* * *

FACTORY PROPRIETORS WERE REMINDED TODAY THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN REGULATIONS, THE EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE WAS STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN INDUSTRY.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID EMPLOYERS WHO INTENDED TO EMPLOY YOUNG JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD CHECK THE APPLICANT'S IDENTITY CARDS TO ENSURE THAT THEY WERE NOT UNDERAGED.

IN NON-INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, HE ADDED, CHILDREN WHO WERE 13 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER MIGHT BE EMPLOYED ON A PART-TIME BASIS, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS AS STIPULATED IN THE REGULATIONS.

+THE RESTRICTIONS ARE TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED FORM 3 EDUCATION SHOULD NOT BE EMPLOYED DURING THEIR NORMAL SCHOOL HOURS AND THAT THEIR HOURS OF WORK BE LIMITED TO TWO HOURS ONLY ON ANY SCHOOL DAY OR FOUR HOURS ON ANY OTHER DAY DURING THE SCHOOL TERM,+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

HE WARNED THAT EMPLOYERS WHO HIRED CHILDREN UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS OR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 13 IN NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WERE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $10 000.

EMPLOYERS ARE URGED TO CONTACT THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR ADVICE IF THEY HAD DOUBTS REGARDING THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

----0----

SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS SOUGHT

* * * *

THE 14 AREA COMMITTEES IN KWUN TONG ARE BEING INVITED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS AND TO APPLY FOR FUNDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS.

KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAM HENG-FAI, SAID THE BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL SEEK SUGGESTIONS FROM THE AREA COMMITTEES TO SEE HOW DB FUNDS COULD BE USED FOR IMPROVING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT.

+THE MONEY COULD BE SPENT ON BUILDING AMENITY AREAS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, LAUNCHING BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS, OR PROVIDING JOGGING TRAILS,+ HE SAID.

THE COMMITTEE WILL SPEND ABOUT $400 000 ON LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS THIS YEAR.

/LAST YEAR'S .....

LAST YEAR'S CONSULTATION WITH THE AREA COMMITTEES LED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS SUCH AS TREE-PLANTING ALONG SHUI NING STREET, PROVIDING BENCHES NEAR THE KWUN TONG MARYKNOLL COLLEGE, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF AMENITY AREAS NEXT TO THE BUS TERMINUS AT SAU MAU PING AND KO CHIU ROAD ESTATES.

AS FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS, MR LAM SAID: +TO ENCOURAGE THE AREA COMMITTEES TO ORGANISE ACTIVITIES THAT CAN ENHANCE NEIGHBOURLINESS AMONG THE RESIDENTS, THE CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE HAS EARMARKED $210 000 FOR THEM THIS YEAR.+

+THE AREA COMMITTEES ARE ALSO BEING ENCOURAGED TO ORGANISE ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL HELP PROMOTE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION TO THE KAIFONGS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS,+ HE SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE AREA COMMITTEES THROUGH THE LIAISON OFFICERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE. THE DISTRICT BOARD SPENT $200 000 ON VARIOUS COMMUNITY PROJECTS DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

----o----

RESIDENTS URGED TO REGISTER AS VOTERS

*****

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDDY CHAN, TODAY (SUNDAY) URGED ELIGIBLE ELECTORS WHO HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED AS VOTERS TO DO SO BEFORE OCTOBER 1, TO PREPARE FOR NEXT YEAR'S URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

SPEAKING AT A JOINT SEMINAR OF THE WAH FU AREA COMMITTEE AND LOCAL RESIDENT ORGANISATIONS, MR CHAN SAID SOUTHERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS HAVE A TRADITIONAL ENTHUSIASM IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS AS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN MARCH.

+IN THE WAH FU CONSTITUENCY, FOR EXAMPLE, ABOUT 16 000 OF THE 49 300 POPULATION ARE REGISTERED VOTERS, AND 38 PER CENT OF THEM VOTED IN MARCH,+ HE SAID.

+THIS ENTHUSIASM SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE IN THE CURRENT VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHAN ALSO APPEALED TO YOUNGER RESIDENTS TO SIGN UP.

+THOSE WHO ARE OR WILL BE 21 YEARS OLD BEFORE DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR AND CONFORM TO THE SEVEN-YEAR RESIDENCY RULE, SHOULD REGISTER NOW SO THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

TODAY'S SEMINAR IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE WAH FU AREA COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL RESIDENT ORGANISATIONS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENTAL, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING MATTERS.

/MR CHAN .....

MR CHAN SAID SUCH SEMINARS WILL HELP IMPROVE THE COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE AREA COMMITTEE AND RESIDENT ORGANISATIONS, AND WILL ALSO SERVE TO STRENGTHEN THE TIES OF THE THREE BODIES -- DISTRICT BOARD, AREA COMMITTEE AND RESIDENT ORGANISATIONS -- CONSTITUTING THE THREE-TIERED INTEGRATED CONSULTATIVE STRUCTURE.

+AS MANY AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS COME FROM MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND RESIDENT ORGANISATIONS, RESIDENTS' VIEWS CAN BE EFFECTIVELY REFLECTED THROUGH THESE BODIES, AND MATTERS DISCUSSED AT DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS ARE REPORTED TO THE AREA COMMITTEE WHICH HELP ACHIEVE A BETTER LINK,+ MR CHAN SAID.

HE ALSO COMMENDED THE WAH FU AREA COMMITTEE FOR THEIR VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS ON MATTERS SUCH AS ESTATE MANAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT, TRAFFIC CONTROL AND LAW AND ORDER, AND FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN ORGANISING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

ABOUT 60 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE AREA'S MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND SHOPOWNERS ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATED IN TODAY'S SEMINAR WHICH INCLUDED A SLIDE SHOW ON THE AREA COMMITTEE'S WORK AND A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION ON LOCAL ISSUES.

----o----

QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

* * * *

FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR EXPERIENCED A MILD IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OVER THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985, ACCORDING TO SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

MANUFACTURING FIRMS EXPECT THE BUSINESS SITUATION TO CONTINUE TO SHOW A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1985.

AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS WAS EXPERIENCED BY FIRMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND A CONTINUED UPTREND IN BUSINESS IS EXPECTED FOR THE THIRD QUARTER.

AS FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, REPORTING FIRMS IN GENERAL EXPERIENCED SOME DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER BUT THEY ANTICIPATE THEIR BUSINESS TO SHOW SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

FIRMS IN THE OTHER SERVICES SECTOR ACHIEVED A FAVOURABLE BUSINESS PERFORMANCE IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND THEY LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, FIRMS IN THE FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO, PRINTING, PLASTICS, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS INDUSTRIES EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER WHILE FIRMS IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES DID NOT EXPERIENCE MUCH IMPROVEMENT.

/FIRMS IN .....

FIRMS IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY REPORTED A DETERIORATION. THIS WAS CONTRARY TO THEIR EARLIER EXPECTATIONS FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS AS INDICATED IN THE LAST ROUND OF SURVEY.

AS REGARDS THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1985, FIRMS IN THE FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO, PLASTICS, ELECTRONICS AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS INDUSTRIES ARE GENERALLY MORE OPTIMISTIC AND EXPECT AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

WHILE PARTICIPATING FIRMS IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY EXPECT A MARGINAL IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS, FIRMS IN THE TEXTILES, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES INDUSTRIES EXPECT THE BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE THIRD QUARTER TO REMAIN LARGELY SIMILAR TO THAT EXPERIENCED IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

A CONTINUED UPTURN IN BUSINESS WAS EXPERIENCED BY CONSTRUCTION FIRMS IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND THEY LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER ADVANCEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

FIRMS IN BOTH THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS SECTOR EXPERIENCED A FALL IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER, BUT THEY EXPECT THEIR BUSINESS PERFORMANCE TO IMPROVE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER WAS REPORTED BY FIRMS IN THE HOTELS BUSINESS BUT THEY EXPECT A DECLINE IN BUSINESS IN THE THIRD QUARTER, DUE MAINLY TO SEASONAL FACTORS.

WITH REGARD TO THE OTHER SERVICES SECTOR, IMPROVEMENTS IN BUSINESS WERE GENERALLY EXPERIENCED BY FIRMS IN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF SERVICES, INCLUDING THE TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION, BANKS AND REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES BUSINESSES. THESE FIRMS HOLD AN OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD QUARTER AND EXPECT FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN BUSINESS.

FOR BOTH THE MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTORS, INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS OR CONTRACTS, PRICE COMPETITION FROM FIRMS IN HONG KONG AND FROM OVERSEAS REMAINED THE MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR THE SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS.

WITHIN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, FIRMS ACROSS ALL INDUSTRIES CITED PRICE COMPETITION AS A PROMINENT PROBLEM IN THE SECOND QUARTER, WITH LITTLE PROSPECT OF EASING IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

AS FOR THE RESTAURANTS BUSINESS, THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN THE PROPORTION OF FIRMS CONSIDERING INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS AS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND THIS PROBLEM IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN THE THIRD QUARTER. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PROMINENCE OF THE PROBLEM OF HIGH STAFF TURNOVER EASED IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

/THE CENSUS .....

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE SURVEY RESULTS, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, WERE BASICALLY INTENDED TO PROVIDE ONE SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG.

IN THE SURVEY, PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD IMPROVED, REMAINED THE SAME OR DETERIORATED IN THE QUARTER JUST ENDED AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

FOR THE FORTHCOMING QUARTER, THEY WERE ALSO ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION WILL IMPROVE, REMAIN THE SAME OR DETERIORATE.

THE BALANCE OF OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE TABULATED AND ANALYSED. THE SURVEY REPORT ALSO CONTAINS A SECTION ON BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS AND A BREAKDOWN OF VIEWS OF FIRMS BY SIZE GROUPS.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CARE AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, CONTAINING AN ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY FINDINGS AND STATISTICAL TABLES, HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO FIRMS TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY AND TO OTHER BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY OBTAIN COPIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, AT $3 PER COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS ON THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL INCOME BRANCH OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 5-423401.

----o----

JOBS FOUND FOR 600 REDUNDANT TEACHERS

* * * *

ALL 600 REDUNDANT TEACHERS IN AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHO REGISTERED WITH THE PLACEMENT SERVICE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY PLACED IN VARIOUS SCHOOLS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

+THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO SCHOOL AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR FULL SUPPORT AND COOPERATION TO ACCEPT THE REDUNDANT TEACHERS REFERRED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO FILL THEIR VACANCIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/THE PLACEMENT .....

THE PLACEMENT SERVICE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1975 TO ASSIST REDUNDANT TEACHERS IN AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS SEEKING ALTERNATIVE JOBS AS A RESULT OF THE DROPPING POPULATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE AT THAT TIME AS WELL AS A POPULATION SHIFT FROM URBAN AREAS TO THE NEW TOWNS.

MORE THAN 4 100 TEACHERS HAVE BEEN HELPED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO SECURE ALTERNATIVE POSTS BETWEEN 1975 AND THIS YEAR, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN THE MEANTIME, WRITTEN ADVICE WILL BE SENT TO ALL AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS INFORMING THEM THAT THEY ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER INTO EMPLOYMENT WITH NEW TEACHERS STARTING TOMORROW (MONDAY).

----o----

WELFARE ALLOWANCE PAYMENT ADVANCED

* * *

RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES HOLDING CASH ORDER BOOKS, MAY RECEIVE EARLIER PAYMENT THIS MONTH IF THEIR PAYMENT DATES FALL ON AUGUST 24, 25 AND 26 WHICH ARE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THEY MAY CASH THEIR COUPONS ON AUGUST 21, 22 AND 23 RESPECTIVELY OR AFTER, AT DESIGNATED POST OFFICES, NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES OR TREASURY SUB-OFFICES.

----o----

LIFEBUOYS AT TSIM SHA TSUI PROMENADE FOR EMERGENCY

* * * * *

THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS PUT UP 33 LIFEBUOYS ALONG THE TSIM SHA TSUI PROMENADE FOR EMERGENCY USE.

THE INSTALLATION WAS MADE AS A RESULT OF A NUMBER OF PEOPLE FALLING INTO THE WATER OFF THE PROMENADE IN THE PAST, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

+IN FACT, THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY ADOPTED DOUBLE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES -- AN INCLINED SEAWALL AND A STAINLESS RAILING ALONG THE ENTIRE STRETCH OF THE 1 200-METRE LONG PROMENADE -- SINCE THE VENUE WAS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC IN JUNE, 1982,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE LIFEBUOYS, INSTALLED AT A DISTANCE OF 36 METRES ALONG THE PROMENADE, ARE MEANT AS A LIFE-SAVING DEVICE IN THE EVENT OF ACCIDENT.

+THEY ARE TIED TO A STAINLESS HOOK ON THE SEAWALL AND CAN BE TAKEN OFF EASILY. A 20-METRE LONG ROPE IS ATTACHED TO ONE SIDE OF EACH LIFEBUOY TO FACILITATE RESCUE OPERATION.+

/EACH LIFEBUOY .....

EACH LIFEBUOY IS PAINTED WITH A NOTICE WHICH SAYS, +LIFEBUOY FOR EMERGENCY USE, PLEASE DON'T DAMAGE+ TO WARN THE PUBLIC NOT TO VANDALISE.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT MOST OF THE TEN TEMPORARY LIFEBUOYS PUT UP ALONG THE PROMENADE A FEW MONTHS AGO WERE STOLEN.

+IT IS BELIEVED THAT PEOPLE TOOK AWAY THE LIFEBUOYS MERELY FOR FUN AS THEY ARE NOT OF MUCH USE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

+WE APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC TO EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES SINCE THE LIFEBUOYS ARE MEANT TO SAVE LIVES. IT WILL BE A PUBLIC DISGRACE TO DAMAGE OR STEAL PUBLIC PROPERTY AND TO WASTE TAXPAYERS' MONEY.

+IN THE ABSENCE OF A RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE BY SOME SELFISH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, RIGID ENFORCEMENT ACTION WILL BE INEVITABLE. ANYONE FOUND STEALING OR DAMAGING THE LIFEBUOYS WILL BE PROSECUTED,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

----o----

SEARCH FOR ELECTORS CONTINUES

****

ELIGIBLE ELECTORS SHOULD SIGN UP DURING THE CURRENT VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE SO THAT THEY CAN VOTE IN THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR AND IN FUTURE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ROGER GARCIA, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

+THE PIVOT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT RESTS IN THOSE WHO ARE BEING REPRESENTED AND IT IS ONLY THE PEOPLE, WHO AS RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS, COULD MAKE THE SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WORK EFFECTIVELY,+ HE SAID.

DURING THE SEVEN-WEEK CAMPAIGN, THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE WOULD CONDUCT HOUSEHOLD VISITS, ORGANISE BUS AND TRAM PARADES, AND SEND LETTERS TO RESIDENTS, SCHOOLS AS WELL AS OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT URGING PEOPLE TO REGISTER AS VOTERS, HE ADDED.

MR GARCIA WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A FUN FAIR, ORGANISED BY THE BAPTIST OI KWAN SOCIAL SERVICE AND SUBSIDISED BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD.

MR GARCIA NOTED THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS AND PRAISED THEIR EFFORTS IN PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF THE DISTRICT.

WAN CHAI RESIDENTS WOULD CERTAINLY BENEFIT FROM SUCH CONTINUING CO-OPERATION, HE SAID.

----o----

/10 .....

INTRODUCTION TO LAW FOR JOURNALISTS

* * * * *

JOURNALISTS ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR A COURSE IN LEGAL MATTERS TO BE OFFERED IN CANTONESE BY THE EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG IN SEPTEMBER.

THE COURSE IS ONE OF A SERIES OF COURSES PLANNED BY THE JOURNALISM TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC) TO UPGRADE THE STANDARD OF WORKING JOURNALISTS.

IT AIMS TO PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS WITH A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE LEGAL STRUCTURE OF HONG KONG, THE PROCEDURE IN COURTS AND A JOURNALIST'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN REPORTING.

THE SYLLABUS OF THE COURSE ON +AN INTRODUCTION TO LAW FOR JOURNALISTS+, INCLUDES THE NATURE OF LAW, THE LEGAL SOURCE OF LAW, THE ADMINISTRATION OF LAW, TORT, DEFAMATION, LIABILITY, DEFENCE, CENSORSHIP, CONTEMPT OF COURT AND OTHERS.

PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE TO ATTEND 14 TWO-HOUR SESSIONS TO BE HELD AT 7.45 PM EVERY MONDAY, FROM SEPTEMBER 23.

THE COURSE FEE IS $280 BUT JOURNALISTS NEED PAY ONLY $150, AS THE BALANCE WILL BE BORNE BY THE VTC. THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 6.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE VTC AT 14TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE COURSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE JOURNALISM TRAINING BOARD, MR FRANK NG, DURING OFFICE HOUR AT 5-8932341 EXT. 283.

----0----

WATER CUTS IN TWO AREAS

* * * *

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN AREAS IN NORTH POINT AND TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 21).

IN NORTH POINT, PREMISES IN THE AREA BOUNDED BY KING'S ROAD AND KORNHILL INCLUDING HOUSE NOS. 986 TO 1094 KING'S ROAD, GREIG ROAD, NAM FUNG SUN CHUEN, MOUNT PARKER ROAD, QUARRY BAY STREET AND YAU MAN STREET WILL BE AFFECTED FROM 10 PM ON WEDNESDAY TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

IN TSIM SHA TSUI, PREMISES IN THE AREA BOUNDED BY NATHAN ROAD, KIMBERLEY ROAD, OBSERVATORY ROAD, CHATHAM ROAD AND AUSTIN ROAD INCLUDING KNUTSFORD TERRACE, OBSERVATORY COURT, AUSTIN AVENUE, LEE SHING VILLAS, CHATHAM COURT, PINE TREE HILL ROAD AND HILLWOOD ROAD WILL BE AFFECTED FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

----0----

/11 .....

RESTRICTED ZONE SET UP

* * * * *

THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF NGAU TAU KOK ROAD IN KOWLOON, FROM A POINT ABOUT 170 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH ON SHIN ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 325 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, WILL BE DESIGNATED A 24-HOUR RESTRICTED ZONE DAILY FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 21).

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

- - - - o - - - -