



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1981

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1981

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SIR MURRAY VISITS WONG TAI SIN  
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY (TUESDAY) MET WITH THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AFTER A TOUR OF THE AREA.

SIR MURRAY TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT THE YEAR WOULD SEE THE INSTITUTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES IN MANY DISTRICTS AND THAT HE WAS INTERESTED TO FIND OUT WHAT DEMANDS FOR FACILITIES THEY HAD, TO DO THEIR JOBS BETTER IN IMPROVING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

HE HAD BEEN EARLIER BRIEFED BY THE CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (WONG TAI SIN), MR IAN STRACHAN, ON THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS.

HE STARTED THE TOUR WITH A VISIT TO THE ICAC MEI TUNG SUB-OFFICE AT TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD WHERE HE MET ITS STAFF AND DISCUSSED THEIR ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK AND EFFORTS IN PROMOTING COMMUNITY EDUCATION.

THE GOVERNOR THEN WALKED TO THE SITE OF THE LOK FU COMPLEX -- A MODERN RE-DEVELOPMENT OF OLD-TYPE HOUSING BLOCKS -- WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE PROJECT BY SENIOR HOUSING MANAGER (WONG TAI SIN), MR ANTHONY HUI, AND A CONSULTANT ARCHITECT.

WORK ON THE COMPLEX -- WHICH INCLUDES MORE SPACIOUS AND WELL LAID-OUT RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL UNITS, A BUS TERMINUS, A PODIUM -- STARTED IN NOVEMBER 1979, AND IS EXPECTED TO FINISH BY THE END OF 1983.

SIR MURRAY ALSO TOURED MORSE PARK INDOOR GAMES HALL AND WAS GIVEN AN ACCOUNT OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S NEW FACILITIES FOR WONG TAI SIN BY URBAN SERVICES OFFICER, MR CHAN TING-PO.

AFTER VISITING THE GAMES HALL, SIR MURRAY VISITED THE WONG TAI SIN POLICE HEADQUARTERS WHERE HE DISCUSSED WITH DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT VINCE CHAPMAN THE DISTRICT'S CRIME SITUATION.

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## MONEY SUPPLY AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

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THE MONEY SUPPLY AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 1980 ARE PUBLISHED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE GROWTH OF THE MONEY SUPPLY (M3) AND OF TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG IN DECEMBER WAS PARTLY SEASONAL, REFLECTING THE INFLUENCES OF CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR, AND ALSO THE HALF-YEARLY CREDITING OF INTEREST ON SAVINGS DEPOSITS. AN INFLOW OF FUNDS INTO THE HONG KONG MONETARY SECTOR DURING THE MONTH ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE RISE IN THE MONEY SUPPLY. DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES CONTINUED TO EXPAND, WHILE A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF NEW LENDING BY BANKS WAS FINANCED BY THEIR INCREASED BORROWING FROM DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

THE DETAILED FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1980, AND COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS MONTHS, ARE SET OUT IN TABLE 1. TABLE 2 SETS OUT SOME FIGURES FROM THE QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR.

### MONEY SUPPLY

THE MONEY SUPPLY ON THE NARROWEST DEFINITION, M1 (NOTES AND COINS WITH THE PUBLIC, PLUS DEMAND DEPOSITS, OTHER THAN FROM BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, WITH LICENSED BANKS) FELL BY 1.1 PER CENT IN DECEMBER, AFTER A FALL OF 4.6 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER.

M2 (M1 PLUS SAVINGS AND TIME DEPOSITS, OTHER THAN FROM BANKS AND DTCS, WITH LICENSED BANKS) ROSE BY 1.9 PER CENT IN DECEMBER, AFTER A 0.6 PER CENT FALL IN NOVEMBER.

M3 (M2 PLUS DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES) INCREASED BY 4.1 PER CENT IN DECEMBER, UP FROM A 2.1 PER CENT RISE IN NOVEMBER. THE DECEMBER GROWTH REFLECTED A 9.4 PER CENT RISE IN DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1980 M1 FELL BY 5.7 PER CENT WHILE M2 ROSE BY ONLY 1.3 PER CENT, SHARPLY REDUCED FROM THEIR INCREASES OF 12.5 PER CENT AND 8 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE THIRD QUARTER. IN THE FOURTH QUARTER M3 ROSE BY 8.7 PER CENT, AGAINST A 7.8 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

### LOANS IN HONG KONG

TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG ROSE BY 4 PER CENT IN DECEMBER, DOWN FROM A 6.3 PER CENT RISE IN NOVEMBER. IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1980 TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG EXPANDED BY 16.7 PER CENT, SHARPLY UP FROM AN INCREASE OF 10.3 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

BANK LOANS IN HONG KONG ROSE BY 4.5 PER CENT IN DECEMBER AND LOANS IN HONG KONG BY DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES BY 2.2 PER CENT, DOWN FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE INCREASES OF 6.6 PER CENT AND 5.7 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER. IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1980 THE GROWTH RATE OF BANK LOANS IN HONG KONG ACCELERATED TO 18 PER CENT FROM 9.4 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, WHILE THE GROWTH RATE OF LOANS IN HONG KONG BY DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WAS ALMOST UNCHANGED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER AT 12.7 PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH 13 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

FOREIGN ASSETS .....

FOREIGN ASSETS

THE NET IDENTIFIABLE FOREIGN ASSETS OF ALL BANKS FELL FURTHER IN DECEMBER BY \$1 232 MN, BUT THOSE OF DTCS ROSE BY ANOTHER \$1 808 MN, INDICATING A NET INFLOW OF FUNDS INTO THE HONG KONG MONETARY SECTOR OF \$576 MN, AS COMPARED WITH AN OUTFLOW OF \$2 771 MN IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH. THE NET OUTFLOW OF FUNDS FROM HONG KONG IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1980 AMOUNTED TO \$3 977 MN, AFTER A NET OUTFLOW OF \$776 MN IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

BALANCE SHEET RATIOS

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO FOR ALL BANKS IN HONG KONG ROSE IN DECEMBER TO 48.4 PER CENT FROM 48.2 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER. THE LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO ROSE FURTHER TO 107.3 PER CENT AT THE END OF DECEMBER FROM 104.7 PER CENT AT THE END OF NOVEMBER, REFLECTING THE EXPANSION IN BANK LOANS IN THE MONTH.

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO FOR ALL DTCS FELL FURTHER TO 44.2 PER CENT IN DECEMBER FROM 46.6 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER. THE LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO AT THE END OF DECEMBER ALSO FELL TO 68.6 PER CENT FROM 73.5 PER CENT AT THE END OF NOVEMBER, REFLECTING THE RAPID GROWTH IN DEPOSITS WITH DTCS DURING THE MONTH.

QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LENDING IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1980, LOANS TO THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ROSE BY 8.9 PER CENT, WELL UP FROM A 1.6 PER CENT RISE IN THE THIRD QUARTER. LOANS TO THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR EXPANDED BY 26.3 PER CENT, AFTER RISING BY 25.9 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER. LOANS TO THE TRANSPORT AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT SECTOR ROSE BY 1.3 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, AFTER A FALL OF 3.1 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

BORROWING BY INDIVIDUALS TO PURCHASE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY GREW BY 15.8 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, UP FROM AN INCREASE OF 10.3 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER. BORROWING BY INDIVIDUALS FOR OTHER PURPOSES ROSE BY 3.1 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, SHARPLY REDUCED FROM A 20.4 PER CENT RISE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING BANKS REMAINED UNCHANGED IN DECEMBER AT 113. THE NUMBER OF REPORTING DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE BY ANOTHER 2 DURING THE MONTH TO 302.

TABLE 1

## MONEY AND BANKING FIGURES - END OF DECEMBER 1980 (IN HK\$ MILLION)

	FIGURES FOR EARLIER MONTHS (% CHANGE):			
	DECEMBER 1980	NOVEMBER 1980	SEPTEMBER 1980	DECEMBER 1979
M1	24 124	24 394 (-1.1%)	25 586 (-5.7%)	20 852 (+15.7%)*
M2	96 862	95 058 (+1.9%)	95 577 (+1.3%)	75 270 (+28.7%)*
M3	139 578	134 117 (+4.1%)	128 457 (+8.7%)	99 765 (+39.9%)*
<u>BANKS</u>				
DEPOSITS	88 490	86 816 (+1.9%)	87 396 (+1.3%)	67 985 (+30.2%)*
LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG	94 970	90 865 (+4.5%)	80 485 (+18.0%)	62 227 (+52.6%)*
LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO	107.3%	104.7%	92.1%	91.5%
AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO	48.4%	48.2%	47.8%	48.0%
<u>DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES</u>				
DEPOSITS	42 716	39 059 (+9.4%)	32 880 (+29.9%)	24 495 (+74.4%)
LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG	29 317	28 689 (+2.2%)	26 021 (+12.7%)	13 566 (+116.1%)
LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO	68.6%	73.5%	79.1%	55.4%
AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO <sup>Ⓢ</sup>	44.2%	46.6%	47.5%	Ⓢ
<u>BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES</u>				
TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG	124 287	119 554 (+4.0%)	106 506 (+16.7%)	75 793 (+64.0%)

\* THESE FIGURES ARE RECALCULATED TO EXCLUDE BANKS' LIABILITIES TO, AND CLAIMS ON, DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

<sup>Ⓢ</sup> THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT FOR DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES TO OBSERVE A MINIMUM LIQUID ASSETS RATIO CAME INTO FORCE ON JANUARY 1, 1980.

/TABLE 2 .....

TABLE 2

QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG  
(IN HK\$MILLION)

CATEGORY OF BORROWER	LOANS AND ADVANCES BY BANKS		LOANS AND ADVANCES BY DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES	
	DECEMBER 1980	SEPTEMBER 1980	DECEMBER 1980	SEPTEMBER 1980
MANUFACTURING OF WHICH:	11 905 (+10.5%)	10 778	1 418 (-2.9%)	1 460
TEXTILES	2 675 (+11.3%)	2 403	270 (+11.1%)	243
TRANSPORT AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	7 699 (-2.0%)	7 855	3 822 (+8.5%)	3 521
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION	14 064 (+27.2%)	11 057	5 143 (+23.8%)	4 153
GENERAL COMMERCE	27 308 (+13.9%)	23 981	4 904 (+30.7%)	3 752
FINANCIAL CONCERNS *	5 336 (+25.3%)	4 259	1 289 (-5.2%)	1 360
INDIVIDUALS: TO PURCHASE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY	7 173 (+17.2%)	6 121	4 530 (+13.6%)	3 986
OTHER PURPOSES	8 952 (+17.7%)	7 606	3 861 (-20.0%)	4 827
OTHERS	9 858 (+11.7%)	8 828	4 080 (+37.7%)	2 962
TOTAL *	94 970 (+18.0%)	80 485	29 317 (+12.7%)	26 021

\* THIS EXCLUDES FUNDS ADVANCED BY BANKS TO  
DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

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NEW POLITICAL ADVISER NAMED

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS HAS APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT OF MR ROBIN MCLAREN AS THE NEXT POLITICAL ADVISER IN HONG KONG.

MR MCLAREN -- HEAD OF THE FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT IN THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE -- WILL TAKE OVER FROM THE PRESENT POLITICAL ADVISER, DR DAVID WILSON, IN OCTOBER ON COMPLETION OF HIS TOUR OF DUTY IN HONG KONG.

THE POLITICAL ADVISER'S POST IS BEING UPGRADED AND ON HIS ARRIVAL MR MCLAREN WILL OPERATE AT THE SAME LEVEL AS A SECRETARY IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

MR MCLAREN WAS A LANGUAGE STUDENT IN HONG KONG FROM 1959-60. HE SERVED IN THE BRITISH MISSION IN PEKING FROM 1960-61 AND WAS ASSISTANT POLITICAL ADVISER IN HONG KONG FROM 1968-70. BETWEEN THESE TWO PERIODS, FROM 1963-64, HE WAS ASSISTANT PRIVATE SECRETARY TO MR EDWARD HEATH, THE LORD PRIVY SEAL AT THE TIME. AFTER SERVING AS COUNSELLOR AND HEAD OF CHANCERY IN THE BRITISH EMBASSY, COPENHAGEN, FROM 1975-78, HE RETURNED TO THE FCO AS HEAD OF HONG KONG AND GENERAL DEPARTMENT. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY POSTED TO HIS PRESENT JOB AS HEAD OF THE FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT IN NOVEMBER 1979.

MR MCLAREN WILL BE 47 WHEN HE TAKES UP HIS POST. HE IS MARRIED WITH THREE CHILDREN.

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FIRE WATCH ON HOLIDAYS

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) URGED RESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE LIVING IN SQUATTER AREAS, TO EXERCISE CARE WHEN CONDUCTING RITUAL CEREMONIES DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT WHEN BURNING JOSS STICKS, CANDLES AND WORSHIPPING MATERIALS PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE EXTINGUISHED BEFORE GOING TO BED AND WHEN LEAVING THEIR RESIDENCE.

+WE MUST EMPHASISE THAT MANY FIRES BREAK OUT BECAUSE OF CARELESSNESS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+PEOPLE MUST BE MORE FIRE CONSCIOUS IN ANY FESTIVE SEASON TO AVOID TRAGEDY WHICH CAN AFFECT MANY OTHERS. IT IS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY.+

HE RECALLED THAT DURING THE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1976 MORE THAN 500 WOODEN AND TIN STRUCTURES, AND GROUNDED JUNKS USED AS HOMES IN ALDRICH BAY, SHAU KEI WAN, WERE DESTROYED BY FIRE IN SEVERAL HOURS. AS A RESULT MORE THAN 3 000 PEOPLE WERE MADE HOMELESS.

+THIS IS A GRIM REMINDER OF WHAT CAN HAPPEN, AND IF REPETITION IS TO BE AVOIDED THEN ALL PRECAUTIONS MUST BE TAKEN,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/HE ALSO .....

HE ALSO ADVISED THAT:

- \* INFLAMMABLE MATERIAL SHOULD NOT BE IN THE VICINITY WHERE WORSHIPPING IS TO TAKE PLACE=
- \* CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY WITH MATCHES OR TOLD TO LIGHT CANDLES OR JOSS STICKS=
- \* BURNING OF CANDLES AND JOSS STICKS ON ALTARS SHOULD BE MINIMISED, AND
- \* MATCHES AND SOURCES OF IGNITION SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF SIGHT OF CHILDREN.

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#### CENSUS COMMISSIONER AFLOAT FOR CHECKS

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS, MR C.C. GREENFIELD, TODAY (TUESDAY) SAW MARINE CENSUS ENUMERATORS AT WORK AND MET WITH BOAT DWELLERS IN THE CAUSEWAY BAY TYPHOON SHELTER.

HE WENT ON BOARD SOME OF THE BOATS TO SEE HOW THE CENSUS WAS PROGRESSING, AND DISCUSSED WITH THE ENUMERATORS THEIR PREVIOUS DAY'S EXPERIENCE CARRYING OUT BOAT-TO-BOAT INTERVIEWS.

THE 1981 MARINE CENSUS, WHICH ENDS TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), HAD BEEN TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE RETURN OF MOST OF THE BOAT PEOPLE TO THEIR ANCHORAGES TO CELEBRATE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

ABOUT 250 ENUMERATORS HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED TO CARRY OUT THIS YEAR'S MARINE CENSUS.

THE 1981 LAND CENSUS WILL BE FROM MARCH 6 TO 15. THE LAST FULL CENSUS WAS CARRIED OUT IN 1971, AND A BY-CENSUS IN 1976 BASED ON A 10 PER CENT SAMPLE OF THE POPULATION.

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#### EXHIBITIONS AT THE THIRD TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL

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FOUR EXHIBITIONS ARE BEING HELD AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL DURING THE THIRD TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL, NOW EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 27.

A STAMP EXHIBITION, PRESENTED BY THE HONG KONG PHILATELIC SOCIETY AND THE CHINA PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, IS BEING HELD AT THE HALL'S CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL UNTIL FEBRUARY 8. EXHIBITS INCLUDE VALUABLE COLLECTIONS OF LOCAL STAMPS AS WELL AS WINNING ITEMS OF THE STAMP COLLECTION JUNIOR COMPETITION WHICH WAS ORGANISED WITH THIS EXHIBITION.

IN THE EXHIBITION GALLERY THERE IS A DISPLAY OF ANCIENT ROCK CARVINGS FEATURING SOME OF THE UNKNOWN DESIGNS CARVED INTO THE ROCKS ALONG THE COASTLINE OF HONG KONG.

AN EXHIBITION OF MODERN PRINTS, ORGANISED BY CONTEMPORARY LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG GRAPHICS SOCIETY, IS ALSO BEING HELD IN THE GALLERY.

/THESE TWO .....

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THESE TWO EXHIBITIONS WILL BE ON FOR THE DURATION OF THE FESTIVAL.

DURING THE FESTIVAL, AN EXHIBITION OF BOOKS ON PERFORMING ARTS WILL ALSO BE HELD AT THE KWAI CHUNG PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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### BIG TURNOUT FOR TAI PO SHOW

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TAI PO'S LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS OPENED TODAY (TUESDAY) WITH A VARIETY SHOW ATTENDED BY 2 000 PEOPLE.

THE SHOW WAS HELD AT A SPORTSGROUND IN PLOVER COVE ROAD WHERE A NEW YEAR FAIR IS ALSO TAKING PLACE.

PERFORMANCES INCLUDED FOLK DANCES, SINGING, AND LION DANCES BY TAI PO ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION AND LOCAL SCHOOLS AND SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS.

OPENING THE SHOW WAS TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NICHOLAS NG, WHO PRESENTED PRIZES TO 15 WINNERS OF A CHINESE COUPLET WRITING COMPETITION WHICH ATTRACTED 6 000 ENTRIES LAST MONTH.

THE WINNING ENTRIES, WHICH DEPICTED THE SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF TAI PO AND PROMOTED NEW YEAR FESTIVITY AND GOODWILL, WERE ON DISPLAY AT THE PLAYGROUND.

MR NG SAID ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE LUNAR NEW YEAR HAD BEEN ORGANISED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS IN THE PAST.

TO ENCOURAGE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS, A COMMITTEE WITH OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES WAS FORMED RECENTLY TO CO-ORDINATE ACTIVITIES.

HE SAID IT WAS HOPED THAT EVERY RESIDENT WOULD ENJOY THE PROGRAMME AND GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEW TOWN THROUGH PARTICIPATION.

SOME OF 12 EVENTS WILL BE HELD DURING THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, WITH A CLOSING CEREMONY TAKING PLACE AT THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE CAR PARK ON FEBRUARY 19.

THE DISTRICT OFFICE BUILDING IS BEING FULLY DECORATED WITH LIGHTING FOR THE WHOLE OF THE TWO-WEEK PERIOD.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE PROGRAMME INCLUDE A FLOWER SHOW, NEW YEAR WALKS, PICNICS, A DINNER FOR THE ELDERLY, FILM SHOWS, CAMPS AND COMPETITIONS IN PHOTOGRAPHY AND LANTERN DESIGN.

ENTRIES TO THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION, WHICH MUST SHOW THE SCENERY OF TAI PO OR ACTIVITIES HELD DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, SHOULD REACH TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 27.

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TUEN MUN'S BLOSSOM TIME

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TUEN MUN RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO FIND A WIDE SELECTION OF PEACH BLOSSOMS AND GOODS FROM THE 70 STALLS OPERATING AT THE FIRST LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR EVER HELD IN THEIR DISTRICT.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FAIR AT TUEN MUN SAN HUI PLAYGROUND TODAY (TUESDAY), THE CHAIRMAN OF TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR LAU WONG-FAT SAID THE FAIR WOULD SAVE THE LOCAL PEOPLE FROM TRAVELLING A LONG DISTANCE TO ATTEND A YEAR-END FAIR AT OTHER DISTRICT.

THE FAIR WAS SPECIALLY SET UP TO KEEP PACE WITH THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF TUEN MUN, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (NORTH) OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR BOWEN LEUNG SAID.

TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE FAIR, MR LAU WONG-FAT, MR BOWEN LEUNG AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER OF TUEN MUN, MR BILLY LAM, PERFORMED THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY.

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WELFARE +HOTLINE+ TO REMAIN OPEN IN LUNAR NEW YEAR

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S +HOTLINE+ SERVICE WILL REMAIN OPEN THROUGHOUT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

THE HOTLINE - 3-432255 - WILL BE MANNED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL WORK STAFF BETWEEN 1 PM AND 10 PM FROM THURSDAY TO SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 5-8).

CALLS MADE OUTSIDE THESE HOURS WILL BE MACHINE-RECORDED FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

THE HOTLINE WAS INTRODUCED LAST OCTOBER TO SUPPLEMENT WELFARE SERVICES ALREADY AVAILABLE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S FIELD OFFICES AND WAS PRIMARILY FOR OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE HOTLINE HAD SO FAR RECEIVED OVER 10 600 CALLS, MOST OF WHICH WERE MADE AFTER OFFICE HOURS.

HE SAID THE CALLS RECEIVED WERE GENERALLY OF FIVE AREAS: FAMILY PROBLEMS, CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR, CHILD CARE, REHABILITATION SERVICES AND FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

CALLERS WERE GIVEN PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE OVER THE PHONE ON FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS, OR AN EXPLANATION OF AVAILABLE WELFARE SERVICES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID PEOPLE USING THE HOTLINE DURING THE PERIODS WHEN MACHINE-RECORDING IS IN OPERATION SHOULD LEAVE THEIR NAMES, TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES.

OVERNIGHT CASES WHICH REQUIRE URGENT ATTENTION, SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION, HE ADDED.

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EIGHT GOVERNMENT CLINICS TO REMAIN OPEN ON SATURDAY

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EIGHT GOVERNMENT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL REMAIN OPEN BETWEEN 9 AM AND 1 PM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 7) -- A NEW YEAR HOLIDAY.

THEY ARE THE VIOLET PEEL POLYCLINIC AND THE SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND= THE YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC, THE KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE AND THE ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE IN KOWLOON= THE TSUEN WAN LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC, THE YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE AND THE SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ALL OTHER GOVERNMENT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS FROM FEBRUARY 5 TO 7 (THURSDAY TO SATURDAY).

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DUTY FREE BRANDY FOR HOLIDAY SPIRIT

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THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT PASSENGERS ARRIVING FROM MACAU DURING THE TWO DAYS FOLLOWING CHINESE NEW YEAR'S DAY (FEBRUARY 6 AND 7) MAY BRING INTO HONG KONG, FREE OF DUTY, ONE BOTTLE OF PORTUGUESE BRANDY CONTAINING NO MORE THAN ONE LITRE OF THE SPIRIT.

THIS CONCESSION IS ALLOWED IN LIEU OF NORMAL ONE LITRE BOTTLE OF GRAPE WINE.

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DANGEROUS BUILDINGS IN TAI PO MARKET

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (TUESDAY) DECLARED NOS. 42, 44 AND 46 YAN HING STREET, TAI PO MARKET TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE TERRACES OF THE PRE-WAR TWO-STOREY STRUCTURES WERE INSPECTED RECENTLY FOLLOWING A COMPLAINT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE LOADBEARING WALLS HAD NUMEROUS CRACKS AND SHOWED SIGNS OF MOVEMENT. PATCHES OF BRICKWORK WERE EXTENSIVELY ERODED AND ALL STRUCTURAL TIMBER WAS IN AN ADVANCED STATE OF DECAY AND ONE ROOF HAD PARTLY COLLAPSED.

ACCORDINGLY NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON MARCH 3, 1981 WERE POSTED TODAY.

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LANTAU BUS SERVICES RESUME NORMAL FREQUENCIES  
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BUS SERVICES ON LANTAU ISLAND HAVE RESUMED NORMAL FREQUENCIES AFTER THE RECRUITMENT OF NEW DRIVERS TO FILL VACANCIES LEFT BY EIGHT OF THEIR FORMER COLLEAGUES LAST MONTH.

DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS THE NEW LANTAU BUS COMPANY WILL OPERATE ADDITIONAL BUS SERVICES TO MEET THE ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN DEMAND WHEN THOUSANDS OF HOLIDAY-MAKERS ARE EXPECTED TO VISIT THE ISLAND.

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