



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1984

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GOVERNOR LEAVES FOR PEKING

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, LEFT FOR PEKING THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON TO CONTINUE TO TAKE PART IN THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

HE WAS SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ROGER LOBO, AND THE VICE-CHIEF EDITOR OF THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY (HONG KONG BRANCH), MR TAN GAN.

ACCOMPANYING THE GOVERNOR WERE THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR ROBIN MCLAREN, AND THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF INTERPRETER, MR Y.P. CHENG.

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BRITONS URGED TO INVEST MORE HERE

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THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR JOHN YAXLEY HAS INVITED BRITISH INDUSTRIALISTS TO TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT HONG KONG TO SEE WHAT IT HAS TO OFFER AS AN OFF-SHORE MANUFACTURING BASE.

ADDRESSING A SEMINAR IN LONDON YESTERDAY (MONDAY) ORGANISED BY THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, MR YAXLEY, WHO IS LEADING AN INDUSTRIALIST MISSION TO BRITAIN, TOLD BRITISH BUSINESSMEN THAT IT IS VERY MUCH +BUSINESS AS USUAL+ IN HONG KONG.

+HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS ARE CONTINUING TO INVEST, PARTLY TO MEET THE CURRENT UPSURGE IN ORDERS, THOUGH WITH PERHAPS A LITTLE MORE CAUTION THAN PREVIOUSLY. BUT THE INVESTMENT CONTINUES. WE IN THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT KNOW OF SOME 50 LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MANUFACTURERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY EXPANDING THEIR OPERATIONS, SOME OF THEM AT A COST RUNNING INTO TENS OF MILLIONS OF HONG KONG DOLLARS.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG IS NOW IN THE MIDDLE OF AN EXPORT, AND A MANUFACTURING BOOM.

+DURING 1983, EXPORTS ROSE BY 26 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS AND 14 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS COMPARED WITH 1982. IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THIS YEAR THEY WERE HIGHER BY 46.7 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

+WE HAVE THEREFORE BEGUN TO SEE AN INCREASE IN THE UPTAKE OF INDUSTRIAL SPACE AND SOME FIRING OF PRICES.

+NOW, THEREFORE, IS THE TIME TO GET IN,+ MR YAXLEY SAID.

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ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BRITAIN AS A BUSINESS PARTNER FOR HONG KONG, MR YAXLEY NOTED THAT TWO-WAY TRADE IN 1983 AMOUNTED TO 1 515 MILLION POUNDS STERLING OR FIVE PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL TRADE. MANY BRITISH COMPANIES, SOME OF THEM HOUSEHOLD NAMES, ARE REPRESENTED IN HONG KONG. MORE THAN 50 OF THEM ARE INVOLVED IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR WITH A TOTAL INVESTMENT OF AROUND 40 MILLION POUNDS STERLING.

+IMPRESSIVE THOUGH THESE FIGURES MAY SOUND, HOWEVER, IN OUR VIEW THEY ARE NOT ENOUGH. THE INVESTMENT FIGURES, FOR EXAMPLE, REPRESENT LESS THAN SIX PER CENT OF TOTAL OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY. BY COMPARISON, JAPAN HAS ABOUT 30 PER CENT, OR INVESTMENT WORTH SOMETHING LIKE 200 MILLION POUNDS STERLING, AND THE UNITED STATES, OUR MAJOR SOURCE OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT HAS 46 PER CENT, OR ABOUT 350 MILLION POUNDS STERLING WORTH.

OUTLINING HONG KONG'S POTENTIAL INDUSTRIES FOR OVERSEAS INVESTORS, MR YAXLEY SAID THAT ELECTRONICS OFFERED THE GREATEST PROMISE AND WIDEST RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES.

+WE HAVE A LONG HISTORY IN THIS INDUSTRY DATING BACK TO THE EARLY 1960'S. WE HAVE HOWEVER COME A LONG WAY SINCE THEN. PERSONAL, MICRO AND MINI COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS ARE NOW BEING MADE IN HONG KONG, AS WELL AS A WIDE RANGE OF OTHER PRODUCTS, WE HAVE THREE WAFER FABRICATION PLANTS OPERATING AT THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IN TAI PO.

+WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL IN THE LIGHT TO MEDIUM ENGINEERING AND METALS INDUSTRIES, FOR WHICH WE HAVE A STRONG BASE IN OUR LONG ESTABLISHED SHIP AND BOAT YARDS. THE GROWING PACE OF EXPLORATION OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA OIL RESOURCES CAN BE EXPECTED TO OPEN UP FURTHER POSSIBILITIES IN THIS AND OTHER FIELDS.+

+OTHER INDUSTRIES OFFERING POSSIBILITIES ARE DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, FOOD AND DRINK PACKAGING AND PROCESSING, BUILDING MATERIALS AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY RELATED PRODUCTS, PRINTING AND PUBLISHING.

+THERE IS ALSO A CONTINUING NEED FOR THE EXPANSION OF OUR LINKAGE AND SUPPORT INDUSTRIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE INVOLVING PRECISION METAL WORKING IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS,+ HE SAID.

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OUTBOARD MARINE EXPANDS IN HONG KONG
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THE INVESTMENT BY OUTBOARD MARINE ASIA LTD TO EXPAND ITS PRODUCTION FACILITIES ON TSING YI ISLAND IS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT HONG KONG CONTINUES TO BE AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS DESPITE STRONG COMPETITION FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

IT WAS STATED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO, WHEN HE OPENED THE COMPANY'S \$20 MILLION REGIONAL PRODUCT SUPPORT CENTRE ON TSING YI ISLAND.

+OUTBOARD MARINE, AS ONE OF MANY EXAMPLES OF PROFITABLE INVESTMENT BY OVERSEAS COMPANIES IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, IS ONE OF THE FIRST MAJOR OVERSEAS COMPANIES TO APPRECIATE WHAT HONG KONG HAS TO OFFER AS AN OFFSHORE MANUFACTURING BASE,+ SAID MR HO.

THE COMPANY, OWNED BY AMERICAN INTEREST, STARTED TO PRODUCE OUTBOARD MOTORS ON TSING YI NINE YEARS AGO.

TODAY, THE PLANT NOT ONLY PRODUCES COMPLETE OUTBOARD ENGINES FOR OUTBOARD MARINE'S INTERNATIONAL MARKETS BUT IS ALSO ENGAGED IN VOLUME PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS FOR SUPPLY TO THE COMPANY'S OTHER PLANTS WORLDWIDE.

+THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SUBSTANTIAL EXTENSION TO THE COMPANY'S EXISTING PLANT IS, I BELIEVE, FURTHER EVIDENCE OF HONG KONG'S CONTINUED ATTRACTION TO FOREIGN INVESTORS, DESPITE STRONG COMPETITION FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION,+ MR HO REMARKED.

HONG KONG NOW HAS OVER 500 OVERSEAS ESTABLISHMENTS MANUFACTURING A WIDE RANGE OF GOODS, WITH A TOTAL INVESTMENT OF NEARLY HK\$8 BILLION, EMPLOYING ABOUT 11 PER CENT OF THE LOCAL INDUSTRIAL LABOUR FORCE.

OF THESE, 132 COMPANIES ARE WHOLLY OR PARTLY OWNED BY UNITED STATES INTERESTS AND HAVE INVESTED ABOUT HK\$3.6 BILLION.

+WELCOME AS THOSE QUANTIFIABLE FIGURES ARE, WE CONSIDER IT MORE IMPORTANT THAT OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER HAS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS INTO HONG KONG.

+THE TRAINING PROVIDED AT THIS CENTRE IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT CAN HELP HONG KONG'S WORK FORCE TO UPGRADE ITS TECHNICAL SKILLS, AND ACQUIRE THE MORE SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY WHICH IS VITAL TO OUR INDUSTRIAL GROWTH,+ MR HO SAID.

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DECEMBER 1983 EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS
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EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN DECEMBER 1983 WERE PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THESE WERE DERIVED FROM THE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL CONDUCTED EVERY QUARTER BY THE DEPARTMENT COVERING THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AND THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

A SEPARATE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY COVERS BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES.

THE OVERALL FIGURES BY MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS, TOGETHER WITH A COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1982 AND SEPTEMBER 1983, ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	PERSONS ENGAGED (EMPLOYMENT) IN			PERCENTAGE CHANGE *	
	DEC. 82	SEPT. 83	DEC. 83	DEC. 83 ON DEC. 82	DEC. 83 ON SEPT. 83
MANUFACTURING	847 200	865 100	855 400	+ 1.0	-1.1
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON SITES ONLY)	82 100	71 200	70 600	-13.9	-0.8
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	517 700	527 000	532 000	+ 2.8	+0.9
FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	166 100	162 600	161 700	- 2.7	-0.6

* BASED ON UNROUNDED EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

A COMPARISON OF THE FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1983 WITH THOSE FOR DECEMBER 1982 SHOWS THAT EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AT 532 000, WAS 2.8 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN DECEMBER 1982. EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, AT 855 400, WAS 1.0 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN DECEMBER 1982.

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ON THE OTHER HAND, EMPLOYMENT ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES DECREASED BY 13.9 PER CENT. AT 161 700, EMPLOYMENT IN THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR DECREASED BY 2.7 PER CENT.

COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1983, AN INCREASE OF 0.9 PER CENT WAS RECORDED FOR THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR.

HOWEVER, MARGINAL DECREASES OF 1.1 PER CENT, 0.8 PER CENT AND 0.6 PER CENT WERE REGISTERED FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES, AND THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR RESPECTIVELY.

TOGETHER WITH THE EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, THE SURVEY ALSO PROVIDED VACANCY STATISTICS FOR THESE SECTORS, OTHER THAN FOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION. THE OVERALL FIGURES BY MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS, TOGETHER WITH A COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1982 AND SEPTEMBER 1983, ARE AS FOLLOWS :

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES IN			PERCENTAGE CHANGE *	
	DEC. 82	SEPT. 83	DEC. 83	DEC. 83 ON DEC. 82	DEC. 83 ON SEPT. 83
MANUFACTURING	23 780	41 130	32 530	+36.8	-20.9
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND AND EXPORT, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	3 860	4 050	4 820	+25.1	+19.2
FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	1 790	1 540	1 780	- 0.8	+15.5

* BASED ON UNROUNDED VACANCY FIGURES

COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1982, INCREASES OF 36.8 PER CENT AND 25.1 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES WERE RECORDED FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR REGISTERED A MARGINAL DECLINE OF 0.8 PER CENT.

/RELATIVE TO

RELATIVE TO SEPTEMBER 1983, HOWEVER, INCREASES OF 19.2 PER CENT AND 15.5 PER CENT WERE REGISTERED FOR THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR RESPECTIVELY. A DECREASE OF 20.9 PER CENT WAS RECORDED FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE SURVEY ARE STATISTICS ON MONTHLY PAYROLL OUTLAYS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AND THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR. QUARTERLY TOTALS FOR EACH OF THESE SECTORS ARE SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE :-

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	TOTAL QUARTERLY PAYROLL IN		% CHANGE *
	4TH QTR. 1982	4TH QTR. 1983	
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN	4TH QTR. 1983 ON 4TH QTR. 1982
MANUFACTURING	5 111	5 953	+16.5
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	3 530	4 030	+14.2
FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	2 017	2 267	+12.4

* BASED ON UNROUNDED PAYROLL FIGURES

RELATIVE TO THE SAME QUARTER A YEAR AGO, PAYROLL OUTLAYS IN THE ABOVE THREE SECTORS INCREASED BY 16.5 PER CENT, 14.2 PER CENT AND 12.4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

BY ADJUSTING FOR VARIATIONS IN TOTAL PAYROLL OUTLAYS ARISING FROM CHANGES IN THE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT, A NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IS OBTAINED. TO ALLOW FOR THE EFFECTS OF PRICE CHANGES, THE NOMINAL INDEX IS DEFLATED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) TO GIVE THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED. VALUES OF THESE TWO INDICES ARE GIVEN IN THE TABLES BELOW :-

/NOMINAL INDEX

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SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (JUNE 1980 = 100)		% CHANGE
	DEC. 82	DEC. 83	DEC. 83 ON DEC. 82
	-----	-----	-----
MANUFACTURING	150.7	171.9	+14.1
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	168.7	190.0	+12.6
FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	194.9	231.2	+18.6

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (JUNE 1980 = 100)		% CHANGE
	DEC. 82	DEC. 83	DEC. 83 ON DEC. 82
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MANUFACTURING	113.1	116.3	+2.8
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	126.7	128.6	+1.5
FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	146.3	156.4	+6.9

/COMPARED WITH

COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1982, INCREASES OF 14.1 PER CENT, 12.6 PER CENT AND 18.6 PER CENT WERE REGISTERED IN THE NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AND THE FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED SHOWED INCREASES OF 2.8 PER CENT, 1.5 PER CENT AND 6.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE ABOVE SECTORS.

TABLES GIVING EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR SELECTED INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES WITHIN THE FOUR SECTORS ARE BEING TRANSMITTED BY FACSIMILE. THE TABLES WILL ALSO BE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS OF THE EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. MR AU HOO-KIT, 5-434185- MR NG KUNG-TAK, 5-455661, AND MR CHIU FOOK-CHING, 5-439398.

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KWUN TONG JOINS FREE LEGAL SCHEME

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RESIDENTS IN KWUN TONG WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE FREE LEGAL ADVICE IN THEIR OWN DISTRICT, STARTING ON APRIL 18.

THREE VOLUNTEER LAWYERS, ARRANGED THROUGH THE HONG KONG LAW SOCIETY, WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 6.30 PM TO 8.30 PM EVERY WEDNESDAY IN THE MAIN OFFICE OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE TO INTERVIEW RESIDENTS WITH LEGAL PROBLEMS.

THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE CENTRE IN KWUN TONG IS A RESULT OF THE EFFORT OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD WHICH FIRST PUT FORWARD THE REQUEST TO THE LAW SOCIETY IN MID-1983.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SEE A DUTY LAWYER CAN COME TO ANY PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE COUNTERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE OR ITS MAIN OFFICE. AN APPOINTMENT WILL BE ARRANGED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS.

DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF WILL ALSO TAKE DOWN A SUMMARY OF THE CASE AND FORWARD IT TO THE LAW SOCIETY SO THAT DUTY LAWYERS CAN MAKE PREPARATION.

THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME WAS INITIATED BY THE LAW SOCIETY TO OFFER FREE LEGAL CONSULTATION FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD HIRING PRIVATE LAWYERS.

THE OTHER DISTRICTS WHICH HAVE JOINED THE SCHEME ARE EASTERN, WAN CHAI, MONG KOK, WONG TAI SIN, TSUEN WAN, SHA TIN AND YAU MA TEI.

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DB MEMBERS VISIT KCR
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SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WERE TOLD TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT MARKET SURVEYS WOULD BE CONDUCTED BY THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS TO FIND WAYS TO BOOST PATRONAGE IN THE DISTRICT.

A TOTAL OF 20 BOARD MEMBERS VISITED THE CORPORATION THIS MORNING DURING WHICH THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE COMPANY'S PLAN TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO STRENGTHEN FEEDER BUS SERVICES IN SHA TIN.

ACCORDING TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE CORPORATION, MR PETER QUICK, THESE SERVICES WOULD AIM AT AREAS, SUCH AS TIN SUM VALLEY, WITH HEAVY POPULATION IN-TAKE.

+WE WILL TRY OUR BEST TO PROVIDE RESIDENTS IN TIN SUM VALLEY WITH SUFFICIENT FEEDER BUS ROUTES TO EITHER SHA TIN OR TAI WAI STATION,+ HE SAID.

BOARD MEMBERS WERE ALSO TOLD THAT CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE FO TAN AND TAI WAI PERMANENT STATIONS WOULD BE COMPLETED IN 1985.

FO TAN STATION IS DESIGNED TO HANDLE 30 000 PASSENGERS DAILY AND TAI WAI PERMANENT STATION 90 000 DAILY.

THIS MORNING, BOARD MEMBERS, ACCOMPANIED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DONALD TSANG, FIRST VISITED THE CONTROL CENTRE AT KOWLOON STATION TO SEE ITS DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CORPORATION AT THE KCR HOUSE ON SHA TIN STATION.

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DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED
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THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON A 20-YEAR-OLD MAN, CHUNG FOON-HEI, SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO 25 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

CHUNG WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF HIS 51-YEAR-OLD UNCLE IN THE HIGH COURT IN MAY 1982.

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SCIENCE TEACHING RESOURCES TO BE SHOWN
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A FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHING RESOURCES WILL BE HELD AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE TEACHING CENTRE FROM THURSDAY (APRIL 12).

THE AIM OF THE EXHIBITION IS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS TO PREVIEW PRIMARY SCIENCE TEXTBOOKS DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEW PRIMARY SCIENCE SYLLABUS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT NATURE STUDIES TEXTBOOKS IN MOST PRIMARY SCHOOLS WERE BASED ON A SYLLABUS INTRODUCED SOME 17 YEARS AGO.

TO COPE WITH CHANGES OVER THE YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS DESIGNED A NEW PRIMARY SCIENCE SYLLABUS TO REPLACE THE PRESENT ONE FOR NATURE STUDIES IN SEPTEMBER.

SHOW AT THE EXHIBITION WILL BE PRIMARY SCIENCE TEXTBOOKS DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW SYLLABUS, REFERENCE MATERIALS AND SIMPLE LABORATORY EQUIPMENT.

PRIMARY SCIENCE EDUCATION TELEVISION PROGRAMMES AND AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS WILL ALSO BE ON DISPLAY.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION AT 10.30 AM WILL BE THE DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR (OPERATION AND SUPPORTING SERVICES), MRS RUBY LAU, AND DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR (CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT), MR JOHN DUNN.

THE PRINCIPAL CURRICULUM PLANNING OFFICER (PRIMARY), MR K.C. KAN, WILL GIVE AN OPENING ADDRESS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FROM 9.30 AM TO 4.30 PM AT THE TEACHING CENTRE AT 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PRIMARY SCIENCE TEACHING RESOURCES EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT 10.30 AM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 12) AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE TEACHING CENTRE AT 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG.

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CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR ARMY BORDER BLOCKS
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS AWARDED FOUR CONTRACTS, WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF \$492 988, FOR INSTALLING FIRE SERVICE SYSTEMS AND CATERING EQUIPMENT IN TWO BORDER BLOCKS BEING BUILT AT MA TSO LUNG AND PAK FU SHAN.

THE TWO SINGLE-STOREY BLOCKS ARE TO ACCOMMODATE SOLDIERS ON ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT DUTIES.

THE FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATION CONTRACT, AMOUNTING TO \$83 389, HAS BEEN AWARDED TO SOUTH CHINA ENGINEERING COMPANY.

THE SECOND CONTRACT FOR \$310 410 HAS BEEN AWARDED TO CHUNG SHING COMMERCIAL CATERING EQUIPMENT LIMITED AND IS TO SUPPLY AND INSTALL COOKING EQUIPMENT IN THE BLOCKS.

THE NEXT CONTRACT, VALUED AT \$37 589, IS FOR PROVIDING AND INSTALLING LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS CYLINDERS AND ASSOCIATED PIPES TO CONNECT THE COOKING EQUIPMENT. THIS WENT TO HONG KONG L.P. GAS COMPANY LIMITED.

THE FINAL CONTRACT FOR INSTALLING THE KITCHEN EXHAUST EQUIPMENT, VALUED AT \$61 600, HAS BEEN AWARDED TO DARRID ENGINEERING LIMITED.

THE FOUR CONTRACTS WERE AWARDED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

WORK WILL START NEXT WEEK AND BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR WHEN THE BLOCKS ARE DUE TO BE READY FOR USE.

A \$3.4 MILLION CONTRACT FOR BUILDING THE BLOCKS WAS AWARDED TO PING KEE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY BY THE SAME OFFICE AT THE END OF LAST MONTH (MARCH).

THE BLOCK AT MA TSO LUNG, BEING BUILT ON A 4 500-SQUARE-METRE SITE, IS SITUATED NEAR LOK MA CHAU POLICE STATION, WHILE THE PAK FU SHAN BLOCK, OCCUPYING AN AREA OF ABOUT 4 000 SQUARE METRES, IS AT LIN MA HANG ROAD.

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MONG KOK DB MEETS THURSDAY
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MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE WIDENING OF A SECTION OF FUK TSUN STREET IN TAI KOK TSUI AT THEIR MEETING ON THURSDAY (APRIL 12) AFTERNOON.

THE SECTION, BETWEEN WALNUT STREET AND LIME STREET, HAS NO PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY AND IS A BOTTLE-NECK FOR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. THE WIDENING WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON TRAFFIC, PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL REVIEW THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARD IN 1983-84 AND DISCUSS ITS WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE REVISED PLANNING STANDARDS FOR AND FACILITIES OF COMMUNITY CENTRES, AND THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF AN OFF-STREET REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AT NULLAH ROAD.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE THE ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES, DISCUSSION ON THE LITTER HOT-LINE AND THE PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 3 PM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 12) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF TUNG PING BUILDING AT 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

CONTRACT FOR ROAD WORK
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A CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTING A SECTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD FROM PAK SHEK AU TO FAN KAM ROAD WILL BE SIGNED TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

SIGNING THE \$99 MILLION CONTRACT WILL BE GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER-MANAGEMENT, MR S.A.W. BOWMAN, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONTRACTOR, MARPLES-EXPRESS JOINT VENTURE.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONTRACT SIGNING AT ROOM 911, 9TH FLOOR, EMPIRE CENTRE, 68 MODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, AT 3 PM.

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LIFT CONTRACT AWARDED
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A CONTRACT FOR INSTALLING LIFTS AT THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IN EAST TSIM SHA TSUI HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE \$2.7 MILLION CONTRACT, FOR SUPPLYING AND INSTALLING FOUR PASSENGER LIFTS AND ONE GOODS LIFT, HAS GONE TO OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY (HONG KONG) LIMITED.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW 14-STOREY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, WHICH WILL INCLUDE A SUB-DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION, STARTED LAST MONTH ON A 2 600-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT THE JUNCTION OF HONG CHONG ROAD AND SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD.

IT WILL BE READY BY EARLY 1986 AND PROVIDE 16 400 SQUARE METRES OF OFFICE SPACE.

THE PROJECT ALSO INCLUDES A DRILL YARD.

THE NEW BUILDING WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT JAVA ROAD, NORTH POINT, WHICH WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT.

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