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UNOFFICIALS LEAVE FOR PEKING

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THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS ARE VERY PLEASED THAT THREE OF THEIR SENIOR COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO VISIT PEKING AND TO MEET WITH CHAIRMAN DENG XIAOPING AND SENIOR CHINESE LEADERS FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

THE THREE MEMBERS, SIR S.Y. CHUNG, MISS LYDIA DUNN AND DR Q.W. LEE SAID ON THEIR DEPARTURE AT THE AIRPORT THAT THEY WERE HONOURED TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH CHAIRMAN DENG. THEY EXPECTED TO BE IN PEKING FOR THREE TO FOUR DAYS AND TO MEET, IN ADDITION TO CHAIRMAN DENG, THE DIRECTOR OF HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE, MR JI PENGFEI. THEY SAID THAT THEY WOULD TRUTHFULLY AND FAITHFULLY REFLECT THE VIEWS, WISHES AND ANXIETIES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, AND THEY SINCERELY HOPED TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG TO THE BENEFIT OF CHINA, BRITAIN, AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

A GROUP OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXCO AND LEGCO VISITED LONDON IN MAY WHERE THEY MET THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF BOTH THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND REFLECTED THE VIEWS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

SIR S.Y., MISS DUNN AND DR LEE SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE PEKING VISIT WAS TO MAKE KNOWN THE FEELINGS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE, AS KNOWN PRIOR TO THE LONDON TRIP AND AS EXPRESSED SINCE, TO THE MOST SENIOR OFFICIALS IN CHINA.

ON THEIR RETURN TO HONG KONG THEY HOPED TO BE ABLE TO RELATE THE RESULTS OF THEIR VISIT TO THE PUBLIC.

THE THREE MEMBERS WERE SEEN OFF AT KAI TAK BY 23 UMELCO MEMBERS.

ALSO AT THE AIRPORT TO FAREWELL THEM WAS MR HAN LI, DEPUTY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF XINHUA NEWS AGENCY (HONG KONG BRANCH).

IN ANSWER TO PRESS QUESTIONS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE UMELCO OFFICE TODAY SAID THE THREE UNOFFICIALS WHO LEFT FOR DISCUSSIONS IN PEKING ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WERE PAYING THEIR OWN EXPENSES.

HE SAID, +THEY ARE PAYING THE COST OF THEIR VISIT TO CHINA THEMSELVES.+

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APRIL ORDERS-ON-HAND AT HIGH LEVEL

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THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IN TERMS OF MONTHS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR STABILISED AT A HIGH LEVEL IN APRIL 1984, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

MOST INDUSTRIES REPORTED SOME INCREASES IN THE VOLUME OF ORDERS COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, EXCEPT THE TEXTILES AND WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRIES WHICH REPORTED SLIGHT DECREASES, THE DEPARTMENT REPORTED IN ITS SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL AND ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR THE MONTH.

THE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT REMAINED STABLE FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AS A WHOLE, BUT SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE SERVICES SECTORS SHOWED NO CHANGE FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH, APART FROM A SMALL INCREASE RECORDED IN HOTELS. IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES INCREASED SLIGHTLY AS A FEW FIRMS STARTED SOME NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, INCREASES IN PAYROLL WERE RECORDED BY MOST MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE WEARING APPAREL AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES. THE INCREASES WERE MAINLY DUE TO PAYMENTS FOR OVERTIME WORK AND SALARY ADJUSTMENTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR DECREASED AS LESS OVERTIME WORK WAS PERFORMED.

SEVERAL SERVICES SECTORS, PARTICULARLY HOTELS, RECORDED SOME INCREASES IN BOTH PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS, REPORTEDLY DUE TO SALARY ADJUSTMENTS AND BONUSES.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS ARE SHOWN IN THE ACCOMPANYING TABLES.

THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH 1983.

AS THE SAMPLE WAS NOT DRAWN ON A RANDOM BASIS, THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT RESULTS ON MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE MIGHT NOT REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, ALTHOUGH THEY SHOULD GIVE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR APRIL 1984 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, AT $1.5 A COPY.

/ENQUIRIES ON .....

ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (AT 3-7212832).

A. ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	(% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH) FEB. 1984	MAR. 1984	APR. 1984	ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS) FOR APRIL 1984
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	-1	3	-1	5.06
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	2	*	-2	2.56
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	4	4	1	4.11
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	3	4	2	3.60
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	*	5	1	5.78
OTHERS	2	4	1	4.39
ALL ABOVE INDUSTRIES	*	4	*	4.74

B. EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

INDUSTRY/ SERVICES	PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED (% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH) FEB. 1984	MAR. 1984	APR. 1984	PER CAPITA EARNINGS (% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH) FEB. 1984	MAR. 1984	APR. 1984	PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR APRIL 1984 HK$
MANUFACTURING	-1	*	*	-29	4	*	2 642
FOOD AND DRINKS	*	*	1	-28	-3	6	3 405
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	*	-1	*	-27	7	-2	2 251
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	*	-1	*	-40	14	-1	2 706

/PLASTIC PRODUCTS .....

PLASTIC PRODUCTS	1	1	4	-34	12	2	2 527
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-1	*	4	-33	5	*	2 203
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-2	*	*	-29	3	*	2 478
OTHERS	*	-1	*	-26	1	2	3 698
CONSTRUCTION**	1	-1	2	-26	9	-4	3 896
SERVICES	*	*	*	-34	2	2	4 804
BANKS	*	*	*	-35	-1	5	4 291
HOTELS	-1	1	1	-37	1	10	3 527
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	*	*	-35	2	3	4 759
OTHERS	*	*	*	-30	4	-3	6 157

* CHANGES WITHIN $\pm$0.5%

** PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS NOT INCLUDED.

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GOVERNOR MEETS HK MEDALLISTS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TODAY (THURSDAY) HOSTED A RECEPTION AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE FOR SEVEN BOYS AND SIX GIRLS WHO WON 11 MEDALS AT THE RECENT SECOND ASIAN SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SEOUL, KOREA.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE RECEPTION WERE THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, MR DENIS BRAY; THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR PATRICK WILLIAMSON; THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, MR DICKEN YUNG; THE PRESIDENT OF AMATEUR SPORTS FEDERATION AND OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, MR A. DE O. SALES; AND THE HEAD COACH OF THE YOUNG SWIMMERS, MR DAVE HALLER.

TWO GOLD MEDALS WERE WON BY FENELLA NG IN THE WOMEN'S 200 METRES AND 400 METRES FREESTYLE EVENTS; AND A THIRD GOLD MEDAL WAS WON BY TSANG YI-MING IN THE MEN'S 200 METRES BUTTERFLY EVENT. THE TEAM ALSO CAPTURED THREE SILVER AND FIVE BRONZE MEDALS.

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PEOPLE'S CIVIC ROLE STRESSED
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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND MORE THAN 300 ADVISORY BODIES CLEARLY SHOWED THAT HONG KONG WAS NOT AN UNDEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, THE SOUTHERN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDWARD YAU, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

IT ALSO SHOWED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT LACK A CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY, MR YAU ADDED.

HE SAID UNOFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATE IN MOST OF THESE INSTITUTIONS, WHILE THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE URBAN COUNCIL ALSO HAVE ELECTED SEATS.

MR YAU WAS SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR WHICH FORMED PART OF A PROJECT KNOWN AS +YOUTHS - RESOURCES OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT+. THE PROJECT IS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG JAYCETTEES.

+THE APPOINTMENT OF PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY INTO THESE CONSULTATIVE BODIES ALSO INDICATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MAKING AN EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT ITS POLICIES ARE IN LINE WITH THE WISHES AND NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

+UNOFFICIALS OF THESE BODIES HAVE SUCCESSFULLY REFLECTED PUBLIC OPINIONS, AND MONITORED THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES,+ HE SAID.

HE TRACED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION TO THE EARLY 70S' WHEN CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEES WERE SET UP IN EACH URBAN DISTRICT AND LOCAL PEOPLE WERE APPOINTED AS MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WAS FURTHER DEVELOPED WITH THE SETTING UP OF DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES TO COORDINATE THE WORK OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, AND DISTRICT BOARDS TO ADVISE ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE WELL-BEING OF THE RESIDENTS.

MR YAU SAID FROM NEXT YEAR, MORE OPPORTUNITIES WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, AND DISTRICT BOARDS WOULD BECOME MORE REPRESENTATIVE WITH THE DOUBLING OF ELECTED SEATS.

BUT HE STRESSED THAT A GOVERNMENT COULD ONLY BE REPRESENTATIVE IF THE MAJORITY OF THE CITIZENS WERE INVOLVED.

HE CALLED ON ALL ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS TO REGISTER AS VOTERS AND TAKE PART IN NEXT YEAR'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

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PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE -- GOVERNMENT'S FRONT DESK
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THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE NETWORK OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT +FRONT DESK+.

LAST YEAR, THIS NETWORK HANDLED 4 194 031 ENQUIRIES AND DISTRIBUTED 6 224 435 FORMS AND PAMPHLETS, MORE THAN DOUBLE THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES OF 1 926 861 AND 2 970 987 IN 1979.

+AND DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, 1 051 649 ENQUIRIES WERE HANDLED AND 1 576 082 FORMS AND PAMPHLETS DISTRIBUTED,+ A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE RECALLED THAT THE FIRST PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE (PESC) WAS SET UP AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN 1961. WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CITY DISTRICT OFFICES IN 1969, THE NUMBER OF CENTRES INCREASED TO 10.

+SINCE THEN, THE NETWORK HAS EXPANDED STEADILY IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC DEMAND, PARTICULARLY WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME IN RECENT YEARS,+ HE SAID.

TODAY, THERE ARE 62 PESC'S THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE CENTRES ANSWER ENQUIRIES ON A WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS, INCLUDING SERVICES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THINGS ABOUT HONG KONG AND EVEN ISSUES OF A PERSONAL NATURE.

+WE HAVE MORE THAN 200 DIFFERENT TYPES OF GOVERNMENT FORMS AND PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE. AMONG THEM, THOSE ON GOVERNMENT JOB VACANCIES, HOME OWNERSHIP APPLICATION, PUBLIC HOUSING APPLICATION, THE COMMUNITY CHEST'S WALK FOR A MILLION AND PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS ARE IN THE GREATEST DEMAND,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER POPULAR SERVICE IS STATUTORY DECLARATION FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES, ADMINISTERED BY APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS OF OATH AT EACH CENTRE.

IN COOPERATION WITH THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT AND THE LAW SOCIETY, THESE CENTRES ARRANGE FOR THE PUBLIC TO SEE RENT OFFICERS, WHO PROVIDE ADVICE ON TENANCY MATTERS, AND TO SEE THE DUTY LAWYERS FOR ADVICE ON LEGAL MATTERS.

+MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO OBTAIN THESE SERVICES CAN APPROACH ANY OF THE CENTRES WHERE OUR COUNTER STAFF WILL IDENTIFY THE NEEDS AND MAKE REFERRALS WHERE NECESSARY,+ HE SAID.

COMPLAINTS AND ADVICE CENTRES OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAVE BEEN SET UP IN NINE DISTRICT OFFICES TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF THE CONSUMERS. PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT PROFITEERING AND SUGGESTIONS TO BEAT INFLATION COULD BE MADE IN PERSON OR BY TELEPHONE. HE SAID.

/DURING TYPHOON .....

DURING TYPHOON AND HEAVY RAINSTORMS, THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SECTION OF CNTA OPERATES A 24-HOUR TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE (3-692255) AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS, HANDLING AN AVERAGE OF 600 CALLS A DAY.

+BECAUSE OF THEIR WIDE CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC, PESC STAFF ALSO HELP SOLVE PERSONAL PROBLEMS AND LISTEN TO COMPLAINTS,+ HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO EXECUTIVE POWERS, WE OFFER ONE OF THE MANY CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH THE PUBLIC CAN SEEK REDRESS.

+COMPLAINTS CAN BE REFERRED TO, AND PURSUED BY, THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS,+ HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, ABOUT 180 STAFF OF CNTA ARE INVOLVED IN PESC WORK. AS THEY DEAL WITH A BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS, THEY ARE OFTEN REQUIRED TO ATTEND PERIODICAL TRAINING AND ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES.

+WHENEVER NEW GOVERNMENT SERVICES OR NEW PROCEDURES ARE INTRODUCED, ALL CENTRES ARE IMMEDIATELY INFORMED TO ENSURE THAT REFERENCE MATERIALS ARE KEPT UP-TO-DATE,+ HE SAID.

THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE HAS BEEN IN OPERATION FOR 23 YEARS NOW, OFFERING READY ASSISTANCE TO GROWING NUMBERS OF RESIDENTS.

ANY ONE WISHING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SERVICES OF THE CENTRES MAY TELEPHONE OR APPROACH THE PESC OF THE CNTA HEADQUARTERS AT 13/F, WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, 7 CANTON ROAD, HARBOUR CITY, KOWLOON (TEL. 3-692255).

LOOKING AHEAD, HE SAID, +WITH THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES ARE GEARING UP FOR STILL MORE RESPONSIBILITIES TO COME.+

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EXCELLENT OUTLOOK FOR PLASTIC INDUSTRY - HO

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THE PROSPECTS OF HONG KONG'S PLASTIC INDUSTRY LOOKED EXCELLENT, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO, SAID TODAY.

BESIDES BEING AN ESTABLISHED END - PRODUCT PRODUCER, IT HAD BECOME AN IMPORTANT LINKAGE INDUSTRY IN SUPPORTING HONG KONG'S ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES, MR HO SAID AT A RECEPTION TO MARK THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONG KONG PLASTIC MATERIAL SUPPLIES ASSOCIATION.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THAT WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY, THE PLASTIC INDUSTRY HAD DIVERSIFIED INTO A FULL RANGE OF CONSUMER AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.

+IT HAS BENEFITED ESPECIALLY IN THE PAST FEW YEARS FROM THE BOOM IN THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY WHICH RELIES HEAVILY ON PLASTIC FOR CASINGS AND ENCAPSULATION MATERIAL,+ MR HO ADDED.

HE SAID THAT THROUGHOUT THE PAST TEN YEARS, THE ASSOCIATION HAD SERVED HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY WELL BY ENSURING A SMOOTH, RELIABLE SUPPLY OF PLASTIC MATERIALS TO THE LOCAL INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY DURING PERIODS OF ACUTE SHORTAGE IN 1974 AND 1983.

+THROUGH ITS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH OVERSEAS SUPPLIERS, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT, THE ASSOCIATION HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DIVERSIFICATION OF THE PLASTIC INDUSTRY BY SUCH MEANS AS DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON NEW MATERIAL SUPPLY, AND SPONSORING PLASTIC EXHIBITIONS.

+I APPLAUD THE ASSOCIATION'S SUPPORT FOR THE INDUSTRY, AND INDEED I URGE IT TO PLAY AN EVEN STRONGER ROLE AS A CATALYST IN THE EVOLUTION OF OUR PLASTIC INDUSTRY AND THE CONSTANT SEARCH FOR NEW APPLICATIONS FOR PLASTIC MATERIALS,+ MR HO SAID.

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$101 MILLION PUBLIC HOUSING CONTRACTS

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TODAY SIGNED 10 MORE CONTRACTS WORTH OVER $101 MILLION FOR A VARIETY OF WORKS ON PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

SIGNED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (CONSTRUCTION), MR FRED PANG, FOUR OF THE CONTRACTS ARE FOR PILING TO FOUNDATION WORKS AT OLD AND NEW ESTATES.

TWO OF THESE PILING CONTRACTS TOTAL $47 MILLION AND COVER THE SECOND AND THIRD PHASES OF HANG ON ESTATE IN MA ON SHAN.

ON COMPLETION OF THE PILING WORKS AT HANG ON, THREE HOME OWNERSHIP BLOCKS WITH 1 050 FLATS FOR 3 990 PEOPLE WILL BE BUILT UNDER THE SECOND PHASE, AND THREE MORE BLOCKS WITH 2 448 FLATS FOR 11 800 PEOPLE UNDER THE THIRD PHASE.

A STANDARD ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE AND A FIVE-STOREY CARPARK WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED IN THE SECOND PHASE.

/THE THIRD .....

THE THIRD PILING CONTRACT VALUED AT $23.5 MILLION, IS FOR THE SECOND PHASE OF LONG PING ESTATE IN YUEN LONG. FOLLOWING PILING, FOUR DOMESTIC BLOCKS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED TO HOUSE 14 800 PEOPLE IN 3 188 FLATS.

THE FOURTH PILING CONTRACT, WORTH $4.8 MILLION, COVERS THE PHASE 4 REDEVELOPMENT OF LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE TO UPGRADE LIVING CONDITIONS AND RELIEVE OVERCROWDING ON THE OLD ESTATE.

AFTER PILING WORK IS COMPLETED, TWO MODERN BLOCKS WILL BE BUILT ON THE ESTATE TO PROVIDE 1 150 SELF-CONTAINED FLATS FOR 5 500 PEOPLE.

OF THE REMAINING SIX CONTRACTS, THREE VALUED AT $2.9 MILLION ARE FOR SOFT LANDSCAPING WORKS TO ADD MORE GREENERY AT THE HOS PROJECTS OF LOK NGA COURT IN NGAU TAU KOK, AS WELL AS SIU SHAN AND SIU HONG COURTS IN TUEN MUN.

IN TWO OTHER CONTRACTS TOTALLING $6.2 MILLION, LIFT, ESCALATOR AND VENTILATION INSTALLATIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT AT KWUN TONG (TSUI PING ROAD) AND SAU MAU PING ESTATES.

THE LAST CONTRACT, WORTH $16.5 MILLION, IS FOR THE EXCLUSIVE CONCESSION TO SUPPLY PIPED LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS TO THE SECOND AND THIRD PHASES OF SHAN KING ESTATE IN TUEN MUN.

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KCR BRINGS NEW TOWN HOMES INTO URBAN AREA

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THE MODERNISATION OF THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY MAKES LIVING IN SHA TIN AND SHEUNG SHUI AS CONVENIENT AS LIVING IN URBAN AREAS. APPLICANTS FOR HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS IN THE NEW TOWNS SAID YESTERDAY.

ONE OF THE HOME-SEEKERS HOPING TO GET ONE OF THE 2 192 FLATS ON OFFER AT THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME MAY SHING COURT, SHA TIN SAID THAT TRAVELLING TO WORK FROM SHA TIN WAS AS EASY AS IN MANY URBAN DISTRICTS.

+AND MAY SHING COURT,+ ADDED MISS HO, +HAS WONDERFUL VIEWS OF THE UNSPOILED COUNTRYSIDE AROUND IT.+

THE COURT IS BUILT ON A MOUNTAIN-SIDE, LOOKING OUT OVER SHING MUN RIVER.

/A HOUSING .....

A HOUSING AUTHORITY SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE ESTATE ENJOYED CONVENIENT SHOPS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SCHOOLS WITHIN EASY WALKING DISTANCE.

MAY SHING COURT IS PARTICULARLY SUITABLE FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, HAVING SPACIOUS REST GARDENS IN THE ADJOINING MEI LAM ESTATE AND A LARGE RECREATION CENTRE PROPOSED TO BE BUILT AT ITS DOORSTEP.

THE FLATS ON SALE ARE IN BLOCKS OF 34 OR 35 STOREYS, AND RANGE IN PRICE FROM $99 800 TO $223 400.

ALSO ON SALE IN PHASE VIA OF THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME ARE 1 584 FLATS AT CHOI PO COURT, SHEUNG SHUI.

THIS MOST DISTANT OF THE NEW TOWNS USED TO BE CONSIDERED AN OUT-OF-THE-WAY SPOT, BUT AN APPLICANT AT THE HOME OWNERSHIP CENTRE IN HO MAN TIN THOUGHT THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KCR HAD MADE THIS ATTITUDE OUT OF DATE.

MR CHAN SAID THAT SHEUNG SHUI SHOULD NOW BE CONSIDERED VIRTUALLY PART OF THE URBAN AREA.

+IT'S EASY AND CONVENIENT FOR ME TO GET TO WORK AND FOR MY CHILDREN TO GET TO SCHOOL,+ HE SAID, +SO MY FAMILY ARE QUITE HAPPY TO MOVE THERE.+

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY SPOKESMAN SAID THAT CHOI PO COURT WAS JUST THREE MINUTES' WALK FROM BOTH BUS AND RAILWAY STATIONS. RESIDENTS ALSO HAVE THE OPTION OF USING SEVERAL MINIBUS ROUTES TO THE URBAN AREA.

THERE IS A COVERED WALKWAY LINKING THE ESTATE TO THE RAILWAY STATION SO THAT RESIDENTS DO NOT EVEN HAVE TO BRAVE THE RAIN.

CHOI PO COURT, TOGETHER WITH THE NEIGHBOURING CHOI YUEN ESTATE AND YUK PO COURT, ENJOYS A WIDE RANGE OF SHOPS, TOGETHER WITH RESTAURANTS, BANKS, SCHOOLS AND CLINICS.

RESIDENTS ARE ALSO WITHIN EASY WALKING DISTANCE OF THE TOWN CENTRE, WHICH HAS A LARGE MARKET.

LOVERS OF OUTDOOR PURSUITS ARE PARTICULARLY WELL CATERED FOR AT CHOI PO COURT, WITH COURTS FOR BADMINTON AND VOLLEY-BALL AND A JOGGING TRACK.

FLATS ON SALE AT CHOI PO COURT ARE IN THREE BLOCKS OF 31 TO 35 STOREYS, AND ARE PRICED AT BETWEEN $98 100 AND $186 300.

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LOTTERIES FUND PROCEDURES TO BE IMPROVED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING MEASURES TO IMPROVE PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES SURROUNDING THE LOTTERIES FUND AND REDUCE DELAYS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR HENRY CHING, SAID TODAY.

+I AM HOPEFUL THAT SOME MEANINGFUL CHANGES WILL SOON BE MADE,+ HE ADDED, WHEN OPENING THE HONG KONG FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY'S SHUN LEE CENTRE.

HOWEVER, MR CHING POINTED OUT THAT CHANGES IN PROCEDURES AND REVISIONS OF POLICY WOULD NOT IN THEMSELVES BRING ABOUT THE DESIRED IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR.

WHILE THERE WAS NO LACK OF GOOD INTENTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTNERS, THE POSSIBLE ANSWER WAS A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT.

MR CHING ADDED: +I SPEAK OF ATTITUDES OF MIND. IT SHOULD BE SELF-EVIDENT THAT THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR HAS A POSITIVE ROLE TO PERFORM IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF POLICY TARGETS AND AIMS. YET THE IDEA LINGERS OF A BENEVOLENT GOVERNMENT DOLING OUT ASSISTANCE TO NAUGHTY ORGANISATIONS, INTERESTED ONLY IN PURSUING THEIR OWN ENDS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES. AND WE ALL KNOW OF COURSE THAT NAUGHTY CHILDREN MUST BE DISCIPLINED AND BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL.+

THERE WAS A NEED FOR GREATER EFFORT TO BE MADE BUT, UNLESS ATTITUDES CHANGE, THERE WOULD BE LITTLE PROSPECT OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, HE SAID.

MR CHING SAID THAT THE CENTRE WAS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT COULD BE ACHIEVED DESPITE PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES.

THE SOCIETY'S CONCERN FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL CARE, AND THE RECENT EXTENSION OF ITS SERVICES TO INCLUDE THE SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE, WAS A RELATIVELY NEW SERVICE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE DEVELOPED.

+I VALUE THE INPUT FROM THIS SOCIETY AND OTHERS WHICH HAVE COME FORWARD WITH SUGGESTIONS AND ADVICE ON THIS SUBJECT. NEW PROCEDURES HAVE ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED, AND THE WORKING GROUP ON CHILD ABUSE WILL MEET AGAIN SHORTLY TO REVIEW THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING THESE UNFORTUNATE CASES,+ HE ADDED.

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INTELPOST EXTENDED TO MALAYSIA

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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE INTELPOST (INTERNATIONAL ELECTRONIC POST) SERVICE WILL BE EXTENDED TO MALAYSIA FROM MONDAY (JUNE 25).

FROM THAT DAY, INTELPOST ITEMS POSTED IN HONG KONG BEFORE 3 PM WILL BE DELIVERED THE SAME DAY IN ANY MAJOR MALAYSIAN CITY. ITEMS FOR OTHER AREAS IN MALAYSIA WILL BE DELIVERED ON THE FOLLOWING WORKING DAY.

+INTELPOST IS IDEAL FOR SENDING URGENT LETTERS, REPORTS, CHARTS OR CONTRACTS.

+THE DOCUMENTS, WHICH ARE HANDLED WITH CARE AND IN CONFIDENCE ARE SCANNED, CONVERTED INTO HIGH SPEED ELECTRONIC IMPULSES AND TRANSMITTED DIRECT TO THE RECEIVING STATION,+ A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+INTELPOST IS AN ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICE AND THAT EXPLAINS WHY IT IS SO FAST AND SO INEXPENSIVE.+

IN MALAYSIA THE COPY IS ENVELOPED AND DELIVERED TO THE ADDRESSEE BY POST OFFICE MESSENGER. ALTERNATIVELY, ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR COLLECTION FROM A POST OFFICE.

THE CHARGE FOR THE SERVICE TO MALAYSIA WILL BE :-

* FOR THE FIRST SIDE OF AN A4 SHEET OF PAPER $45

* FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT A4 SIDE SENT TO THE SAME ADDRESSEE AT THE SAME TIME $25

THE POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT INTELPOST SERVICE IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES, FRANCE, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN AND AUSTRALIA. INTELPOST IS ALREADY ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST PUBLIC ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICES, AND IT IS GROWING FAST.

+INTELPOST IS IMPORTANT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MAIL SERVICES IN HONG KONG WHICH HAS TODAY BECOME A MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

PEOPLE WISHING TO MAKE USE OF THE SERVICE MAY POST THEIR DOCUMENTS AT EITHER THE GENERAL POST OFFICE OR THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE AT 10 MIDDLE ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI. IF THEY ALREADY HAVE FACSIMILE MACHINES IN THEIR OFFICES, ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO TRANSMIT THEIR ITEMS DIRECT TO THE POST OFFICE INTELPOST TERMINAL IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SERVICE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE INTELPOST REPRESENTATIVE ON TELEPHONE 5-2671148.

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STUDENTS TO HEAR ABOUT JOB CHANCES

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STUDENTS AND CAREERS MASTERS FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SEMINAR TO INTRODUCE CAREER PROSPECTS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN THE CARGO TRANSPORT INDUSTRY.

THE SEMINAR, TO BE HELD ON JULY 8 AT THE KESWICK HALL OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, IS ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT AND PHYSICAL DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

+TRANSPORT EXPERTS AND MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL FROM LEADING COMPANIES IN THE INDUSTRY WILL TALK ABOUT SHIPPING AND CARGO HANDLING TERMINALS, FORWARDING AGENTS, TRUCKING, WAREHOUSING AND THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD SAID.

THERE WILL BE A SLIDE SHOW IN THE SEMINAR, AND BROCHURES PREPARED BY THE BOARD WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PARTICIPANTS TO ENABLE THEM TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE INDUSTRY.

+YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN THE CARGO TRANSPORT INDUSTRY WHICH REQUIRES MORE NEW ENTRANTS TO SUPPORT THE FAST GROWING BUSINESS. THE GOOD RERFORMANCE OF EXPORT, IMPORT AND RE-EXPORT ACTIVITIES HAS LED TO THE EXPANSION OF THE CARGO TRANSPORT INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID.

+A WELL-TRAINED WORKFORCE IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE EFFICIENCY OF THE INDUSTRY,+ HE ADDED.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SEMINAR MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD MR NELSON WONG ON 5-8932341 EXT. 254.

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VISIT TO MARINE DEPARTMENT

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TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE WAN CHAI AND CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARDS WILL VISIT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TOMORROW (FRIDAY) MORNING TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM KAM-KWONG, AND STAFF OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, MEMBERS WILL ALSO TOUR THE WAN CHAI AND WESTERN DISTRICT PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS.

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COURSES OFFERED ON LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

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TEACHERS OF PRIMARY THREE TO PRIMARY SIX WHO ARE INTERESTED IN CLASS LIBRARY MANAGEMENT ARE INVITED TO ENROL IN TWO COURSES TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH.

THE COURSES ARE BEING ORGANISED BY THE LIBRARY SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE.

BESIDES EQUIPPING TEACHERS WITH THE BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF MANAGING CLASS LIBRARIES, THE COURSES ARE DESIGNED TO TRAIN THEM ON HOW TO SELECT BOOKS AND DEVISE RELEVANT ACTIVITIES.

ONE OF THE COURSES IS FOR PRIMARY THREE AND FOUR TEACHERS AND WILL BE HELD FROM JULY 16 TO 19 IN ROOM 25 OF HONG KONG UNIVERSITY'S EXTRA MURAL TOWN CENTRE, 8TH FLOOR, WING ON CENTRE, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

THE OTHER COURSE, FOR PRIMARY FIVE AND SIX TEACHERS, WILL BE HELD FROM JULY 23 TO 26 AT THE SAME PLACE.

DUE TO LIMITED ACCOMMODATION, ONLY ONE TEACHER FROM EACH SCHOOL WILL BE ACCEPTED. TEACHERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED SIMILAR COURSES BEFORE ARE REQUESTED NOT TO APPLY.

HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS WHO WISH TO NOMINATE THEIR TEACHERS FOR THE COURSES, SHOULD APPLY TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR, LIBRARY SECTION, ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, 5TH FLOOR, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG, BY JUNE 27.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE TO THE LIBRARY SECTION ON 5-8392258.

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NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR TUEN MUN

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ONE OF SIX STANDARD PRIMARY SCHOOLS PLANNED FOR TUEN MUN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR IS TO BE BUILT ON A 5 220-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT CASTLE PEAK ROAD, CLOSE TO TUEN MUN POLYCLINIC.

A $6.4 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE WORK HAS BEEN AWARDED TO SUI CHONG CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE SIX-STOREY BUILDING WILL HAVE 24 CLASSROOMS AND AN ASSEMBLY HALL.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A COVERED AND AN EXTERNAL PLAY AREA, AS WELL AS BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL COURTS.

WORK ON THE BUILDING IS EXPECTED TO TAKE A YEAR AND THE SCHOOL CAN START ADMITTING STUDENTS NEXT SUMMER.

THERE ARE AT PRESENT 33 PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN TUEN MUN SERVING A POPULATION OF ABOUT 190 000. THIS IS EXPECTED TO GROW TO MORE THAN 500 000 BY 1990.

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SAFETY MATTING FOR PLAYGROUND

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A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AT MORSE PARK, KOWLOON WILL BE SURFACED WITH MATTING TO IMPROVE SAFETY.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR SUPPLYING AND LAYING THE SAFETY MATTING.

THE AREA INVOLVED IS ABOUT 300 SQUARE METRES.

WORK WILL START IN AUGUST AND BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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OBSERVE HYGIENE, OPERATORS TOLD

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THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY TOLD FOOD ESTABLISHMENT OPERATORS TO OBSERVE HYGIENE.

A MAN IN KWAI CHUNG WAS FINED $2 000 TODAY AT THE TSUEN WAN MAGISTRACY FOR FAILURE TO KEEP HIS RESTAURANT CLEAN.

THIS IS THE MAXIMUM FINE UNDER THE FOOD BUSINESS (NEW TERRITORIES) REGULATIONS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE, AN NTSD SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT NTSD WOULD CARRY OUT REGULAR CHECKS AT ALL LICENSED FOOD PREMISES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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SALES OF SHARES ANNOUNCED

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON TAKEOVERS AND MERGERS, UNDER RULE 29 OF THE HONG KONG CODE ON TAKEOVERS AND MERGERS, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT OFFER BY FIRST PACIFIC HOLDINGS LIMITED TO ACQUIRE THE ISSUED SHARE CAPITAL OF FIRST PACIFIC FINANCE LIMITED THAT THE FOLLOWING DISCLOSURES HAD BEEN MADE TO HIM :

JARDINE FLEMING (SECURITIES) LIMITED MADE THE FOLLOWING SALES OF FIRST PACIFIC HOLDINGS LIMITED SHARES FOR THE ACCOUNT OF INVESTMENT CLIENTS :

DATE	NO. OF SHARES	PRICE
11 JUNE 1984	122 000	$2.95
	100 000	$2.975
	25 000	$3.00
12 JUNE 1984	22 000	$2.975
15 JUNE 1984	230 000	$2.80
	52 000	$2.85
19 JUNE 1984	400	$2.70
	60 000	$2.80
	40 000	$2.80

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LINK ROAD OPENED

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THE TEMPORARY LINK ROAD BETWEEN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD IN TUEN MUN IS NOW OPEN TO TRAFFIC, PROVIDING A MORE DIRECT ROUTE BETWEEN LUNG MUN ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

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